

THE MARSHALL CENTER

transnational weekly



A CURRENT AWARENESS SERVICE FROM THE MARSHALL CENTER

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COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

Can Western Firms Stop Profiting From Poor Nations' Corruption?

Editorial Board – The New York Times: 25 January 2020

As Isabel dos Santos, daughter of Angola's former president, plundered the country's resources to make herself the richest woman in Africa, she was aided by Western consulting and accounting firms, which overlooked clear signs of money laundering while collecting a share of the proceeds.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/01/25/opinion/sunday/angola-corrupt.html>

New Reports Highlight Russia's Deep-Seated Culture of Corruption

Charles Maynes – Voice of America: 26 January 2020

Transparency International's new corruption index for 2019 finds no improvement for Russia, and a report from the Russian Academy of Sciences on education finds plagiarism in academia to be widespread. Some members of the Russian Duma even display false diplomas from non-existent universities.

<https://www.voanews.com/europe/new-reports-highlight-russias-deep-seated-culture-corruption>

For more on this theme:

Hacker Exposed Massive Corruption in Angola

<https://www.courthousenews.com/hacker-exposed-massive-corruption-in-angola/>

In Croatia, an unwillingness to examine official failures

<https://www.dw.com/en/in-croatia-an-unwillingness-to-examine-official-failures/a-52114231>

Fighting corruption in emerging Europe

<https://emerging-europe.com/news/fighting-corruption-in-emerging-europe/>

Lobbying in Croatia: Business or Corruption? RBA Case Opens Can of Worms

<https://www.total-croatia-news.com/politics/41085-lobbying-in-croatia>

Corruption Is Easing In Some Unlikely Corners Of The Middle East, Says Report On Global Graft

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/dominicdudley/2020/01/23/corruption-middle-east/>

The Brief: corruption still a major issue in European Union

<https://www.euronews.com/2020/01/27/the-brief-corruption-still-a-major-issue-in-european-union>

Top UN official refutes Venezuela corruption allegations

<https://www.thenewhumanitarian.org/news/2019/01/17/UN-IOM-Antonio-Vitorino-denies-corruption>

DRUG TRAFFICKING

Mexico's Security Dilemma

Carlos Galina – Council on Foreign Relations: 24 January 2020

Despite the Mexican government's efforts to decrease violence by shifting its anti-cartel efforts away from the more militaristic tactics of the past, 2019 was Mexico's deadliest year since the drug war began in earnest in 2006, and the ongoing violence is straining U.S.-Mexico relations.

<https://www.cfr.org/in-brief/mexicos-security-dilemma>

For more on this theme:

Mexican Drug Cartels Are Openly Handing Out Toys To Win Over Local Families

https://www.vice.com/en_us/article/z3b4jy/mexican-drug-cartel-jalisco-cjng-giving-toys-to-kids

COCAINE YACHT CARRYING \$77 MILLION WORTH OF DRUGS CAPTURED DURING ATLANTIC STORM

<https://www.newsweek.com/cocaine-yacht-captured-atlantic-storm-1484236>

GameChangers 2019: 10 Predictions for Organized Crime in 2020

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/analysis/gamechangers-2019-predictions-2020/>

They rented waterfront Airbnb homes to smuggle piles of cocaine, authorities say

<https://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/crime/fl-new-waterfront-airbnb-rented-dominican-cocaine-smugglers-20200125-efvfmwyl4zhlvabvr2nwwacz2i-story.html>

Airport-style body scanners to be rolled out to prisons after trials cut drug use

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2020/01/23/airport-style-body-scanners-rolled-prisons-trials-cut-drug-use/>

Uruguay Navy Officers in Worrying Link to Drug Trafficking

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/brief/uruguay-navy-drug-trafficking/>

TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

Ukraine's illegal amber mining boom is scarring the earth and making criminal gangs rich

Linton Besser – Microsoft News: 21 January 2020

Illegal mining of fossilized tree resin is stripping the land of vegetation and robbing Ukraine's state coffers of much-needed royalty income. Organized crime groups have attacked people calling for legislation to stop the practice.

<https://www.msn.com/en-au/news/other/ukraines-illegal-amber-mining-boom-is-scarring-the-earth-and-making-criminal-gangs-rich/ar-BBZanur>

Albatrosses Outfitted With GPS Trackers Detect Illegal Fishing Vessels

Katherine J. Wu – Smithsonian Magazine: 27 January 2020

Scientists are fitting albatrosses with GPS trackers capable of detecting radar emissions from fishing boats. The giant birds can fly long distances and often stay at sea for days. The GPS can detect and track suspicious activity and help identify illegal fishing.

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/albatrosses-outfitted-with-gps-detect-illegal-fishing-vessels-180974054/>

For more on this theme:

Conservationists welcome China's wildlife trade ban

<https://news.mongabay.com/2020/01/conservationists-welcome-chinas-wildlife-trade-ban/>

Global actors gather to forge a common front against illicit trade

<https://unctad.org/en/pages/newsdetails.aspx?OriginalVersionID=2278>

Bringing rocks to a dynamite fight: Fishers take on blast fishing in Peru

<https://news.mongabay.com/2020/01/bringing-rocks-to-a-dynamite-fight-fishers-take-on-blast-fishing-in-peru/>

China Targets Distant-Water Criminals With New Fisheries Law

<https://www.maritime-executive.com/editorials/china-targets-distant-water-criminals-with-new-fisheries-law>

Indonesia Extends Anti-Illegal Fishing Task Force

<https://jakartaglobe.id/news/indonesia-extends-anti-illegal-fishing-task-force>

China temporarily bans wildlife trade in wake of outbreak

<https://apnews.com/d59f43a911996a729cdf8636f5aa4ce4>

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND IRREGULAR MIGRATION

Sharing the burden of the global refugee crisis

Omer Karasapan – The Brookings Institution: 27 January 2020

The first Global Refugee Forum, organized by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, was held to discuss best practices in refugee resettlement, support for refugee-hosting countries and encourage more equitable distribution of the burden, given that developed countries hosted only 16% of all refugees compared to 84% by developing countries.

<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/future-development/2020/01/27/sharing-the-burden-of-the-global-refugee-crisis/>

Asylum Seekers Find a New Route to Europe, Flowing Into a Divided Cyprus

Matina Stevis-Gridneff – The New York Times: 28 January 2020

During the peak of the irregular migration crisis, the European Union and Turkey came to an agreement to stop large numbers of asylum seekers from reaching EU territory through Turkey – usually Greece. With that route cut off, the flow has shifted to Cyprus, which has become the highest per capita host of asylum seekers in the EU.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/01/28/world/europe/cyprus-migrant-crisis.html>

For more on this theme:

The challenge of helping child refugees in Libya overcome trauma

<https://www.unhcr.org/news/stories/2020/1/5e3008ed4/challenge-helping-child-refugees-libya-overcome-trauma.html>

Migrant-smuggling networks believed widespread in Mexico

<https://mexiconewsdaily.com/news/migrant-smuggling-networks-believed-widespread/>

West Darfur tensions could see 30,000 flee across Sudanese border to Chad: UN refugee agency

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/01/1056182>

Only 189 migrants returned to Turkey despite EU refugee pact: report

<https://www.dw.com/en/only-189-migrants-returned-to-turkey-despite-eu-refugee-pact-report/a-52153279>

Catholic advocates: Nations often ignore exploitation of migrant workers

<https://angelusnews.com/news/world/catholic-advocates-nations-often-ignore-exploitation-of-migrant-workers/>

2019: A deadly year for migrants crossing the Americas

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/01/1056202>

Deadly conditions for Indonesian migrant crews tied to illegal fishing

<https://news.mongabay.com/2020/01/deadly-conditions-for-indonesian-migrant-crews-tied-to-illegal-fishing/>

SMUGGLING, PIRACY AND COUNTERFEITING

Greed, Piracy, and Murder at Sea in Ian Urbina's 'Outlaw Ocean'

Lee Polevoi – Highbrow Magazine: 23 January 2020

This review of the book by Ian Urbina, an investigative reporter for The New York Times, tells how he traveled seas and oceans to collect firsthand accounts of piracy, greed and murder at sea. The book notes that the reach of maritime law in international waters is limited to the small areas of the vast oceans that can be patrolled.

<https://www.highbrowmagazine.com/10373-greed-piracy-and-murder-sea-ian-urbina-s-outlaw-ocean>

U.S. Cracks Down on Counterfeits in a Warning Shot to China

Alan Rappeport – The New York Times: 24 January 2020

A 54-page report by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security details how the government will crack down on counterfeit products and illicit drugs, much of it coming from China. Officials estimate that more than 100,000 packages a day from China contain items that could defraud or harm Americans.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/01/24/us/politics/us-cracks-down-on-counterfeits-in-a-warning-shot-to-china.html>

For more on this theme:

It May Be the Biggest Tax Heist Ever. And Europe Wants Justice.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/01/23/business/cum-ex.html>

South Korea to deploy anti-piracy unit to the Strait of Hormuz

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-southkorea-mideast/south-korea-to-deploy-anti-piracy-unit-to-the-strait-of-hormuz-idUSKBN1ZK06H>

2019 in review: Piracy and armed robbery at sea

<https://www.hellenicshippingnews.com/2019-in-review-piracy-and-armed-robbery-at-sea/>

ACEF Helps Feds Crack Counterfeit Coins Case

<http://www.coinnews.net/2020/01/29/acef-helps-feds-crack-counterfeit-coins-case/>

Customs nets P20.58B in smuggled goods

<https://business.inquirer.net/289146/customs-nets-p20-58b-in-smuggled-goods>

23 ARRESTS IN FRANCE AND THE NETHERLANDS AS IRAQI-KURDISH SMUGGLING NETWORK BUSTED

<https://www.europol.europa.eu/newsroom/news/23-arrests-in-france-and-netherlands-iraqi-kurdish-smuggling-network-busted>

PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

INTERNET GOVERNANCE

Facebook unveils details of its content-oversight board

The Economist: 28 January 2020

Facebook plans to create an independent oversight board of experts with the power to review and overrule the company's internal decisions on content moderation. Some hope the board will evolve into an international online ombudsman with an internetwide charter to supervise data collection and algorithm design in addition to content.

<https://www.economist.com/business/2020/01/28/facebook-unveils-details-of-its-content-oversight-board>

For more on this theme:

(Global) Opinion | Lessons on internet governance from the concert hall

<https://www.livemint.com/opinion/columns/lessons-on-internet-governance-from-the-concert-hall-11580229305635.html>

(Global) The Shaky Future of .org Domains

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/01/27/opinion/org-domain-sale-icann.html>

(Global) Did you miss the most important thing about BitCoin?

<https://medium.com/@EquityDiamonds/why-many-smart-coders-dont-get-bitcoin-6c87239253d1>

INTERNET FREEDOM

Connecting the Next 46 Percent: Time to Pick the Good From the Bad and the Ugly

Kitaw Yayahyirad Kitaw – Circle ID: 24 January 2020

Research from Freedom House indicates that as access to the internet expands, it becomes less free. Authoritarian governments are using technology to surveil their citizens and suppress ideas. How to renew and protect the internet's promise while connecting those that remain offline is the next great challenge.

http://www.circleid.com/posts/20200124_connecting_the_next_46_percent_time_to_pick_the_good_from_the_bad/

For more on this theme:

(Russia, Norway) The Kremlin is notorious for global meddling online. But controlling cyberspace at home has been trickier.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/europe/the-kremlin-has-its-hands-in-the-internet-around-the-world-its-also-trying-to-control-cyberspace-at-home/2020/01/25/393101b2-3c64-11ea-afe2-090eb37b60b1_story.html

(U.S.) The Growing Threat to Free Speech Online

<https://time.com/5770755/threat-free-speech-online/>

(Philippines, Malaysia, Vietnam) Internet surveillance and censorship in ASEAN

<https://theaseanpost.com/article/internet-surveillance-and-censorship-asean>

PRIVACY AND SECURITY

This VR living room lets you step inside a data-privacy nightmare

Joan E. Solsman – CNet: 29 January 2020

A virtual reality experience featured at the Sundance Film Festival replicates a typical living room but allows the user to visualize the data footprint they leave behind every time they use one of the smart devices that populate many modern homes. It also educates users on how these devices can be hacked and exploited.

<https://www.cnet.com/news/vr-living-room-lets-you-step-inside-data-privacy-nightmare/>

For more on this theme:

(Global) Bots vs. Bad actors: How to spot the difference and protect yourself

<https://www.scmagazine.com/home/opinion/executive-insight/bots-vs-bad-actors-how-to-spot-the-difference-and-protect-yourself/>

(U.S.) Investigation Urged Into ‘Anti-Competitive’ Ad Blockers

<https://www.cpomagazine.com/data-privacy/investigation-urged-into-anti-competitive-ad-blockers/>

(EU) GDPR Subverted by Cookie Consent Tools, Study Reveals

<https://www.cpomagazine.com/data-protection/gdpr-subverted-by-cookie-consent-tools-study-reveals/>

PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

Critical Technologies and Great Power Competition

Ankit Panda – *The Diplomat*: 29 January 2020

Great-power competition with China requires that the U.S. and its Western allies maintain their advantage in innovation and emerging technologies, which depends on strong public-private partnerships. The successful partnership model linking large companies and the federal government should be extended to smaller companies on the cutting edge of technological development.

<https://thediplomat.com/2020/01/critical-technologies-and-great-power-competition/>

For more on this theme:

(Australia) Australian response to cyber threats must evolve, says Pezzullo

<https://www.themandarin.com.au/124293-aus-response-to-cyber-threats-must-evolve-says-pezzullo/>

(U.S.) Industry, USG Meet To Stop Space Cyber Threats

<https://breakingdefense.com/2020/01/industry-usg-meet-to-stop-space-cyber-threats/>

(Australia) APRA sets out policy and supervision priorities for 2020

<https://www.miragenews.com/apra-sets-out-policy-and-supervision-priorities-for-2020/>

CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING

Egypt’s building a new capital: Inside the smart city in the desert

Damian Radcliffe – ZDNet: 28 January 2020

Egypt’s new high-tech capital – a “smart city” – is being built in the desert between the Nile River and the Suez Canal. The city will integrate smart infrastructure, including smart traffic monitoring to alleviate congestion and track accidents, smart utilities to reduce consumption, and smart buildings to be more efficient, all connected using optical fiber FTTX technology.

<https://www.zdnet.com/article/egypts-building-a-new-capital-inside-the-smart-city-in-the-desert/>

For more on this theme:

(Global) This decade will see the world shed the fear of losing jobs to bots

<https://qz.com/india/1791640/ai-iot-cloud-big-data-will-help-mankind-pivot-in-next-10-years/>

(NATO, Latvia) Cyber defense game brings together security experts, special forces and more as military prepares for warfare 2.0

<https://www.zdnet.com/article/cyber-defense-game-brings-together-security-experts-special-forces-and-more-as-military-prepares-for-warfare-2-0/>

(U.S.) DoD looks to speed up fielding of AI to adapt to real-world environments

<https://federalnewsnetwork.com/artificial-intelligence/2020/01/dod-looks-to-speed-up-fielding-of-ai-to-adapt-to-real-world-environments/>

CYBER THREATS

How To Fake Friends and Influence People

Maik Baumgärtner and Roman Höfner – Spiegel International: 24 January 2020

A Facebook network composed of hundreds of fabricated profiles, many with intricate biographical information, personal photos and constructed social relationships, has been used to spread political propaganda and to steal personal information from unsuspecting users.

<https://www.spiegel.de/international/germany/facebook-how-to-fake-friends-and-influence-people-a-4605cea1-6b49-4c26-b5b7-278caef29752>

For more on this theme:

(Global) Top 5 Cyber Threats to Watch Out for in 2020

<https://www.cxotoday.com/news-analysis/top-5-cyber-threats-to-watch-out-for-in-2020/>

(U.S., China) US Government-Funded Android Phones Come With Pre-Installed Malware

<https://www.cpomagazine.com/cyber-security/us-government-funded-android-phones-come-with-pre-installed-malware/>

(U.S.) Wawa's massive card breach: 30 million customers' details for sale online

<https://www.zdnet.com/article/wawa-card-breach-may-rank-as-one-of-the-biggest-of-all-times/>

INFORMATION SHARING

An AI Epidemiologist Sent the First Warnings of the Wuhan Virus

Eric Niiler – Wired: 25 January 2020

The Canadian health monitoring platform BlueDot identified the Wuhan epidemic using an artificial intelligence algorithm that searches foreign-language news reports, animal and plant disease networks and official proclamations. It predicted where it would spread next by analyzing airline ticket data.

<https://www.wired.com/story/ai-epidemiologist-wuhan-public-health-warnings/>

For more on this theme:

(U.S.) Tech Companies Take A Leading Role In Warning Of Foreign Cyber Threats

<https://www.npr.org/2020/01/23/798898711/tech-companies-take-a-leading-role-in-warning-of-foreign-cyber-threats>

(U.S.) Survey: Financial-Sector Agencies' Policies for Sharing Cyber Threats Inconsistent

<https://www.nextgov.com/cybersecurity/2020/01/survey-financial-sector-agencies-policies-sharing-cyber-threats-inconsistent/162560/>

CYBER PROTECTION OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Huawei, Not All the Way

James Sullivan – Royal United Services Institute: 27 January 2020

The British government, considering the risk manageable, will allow the Chinese company Huawei a limited role in building Britain's 5G mobile networks. The United States government considers Huawei to be an arm of the Chinese Communist Party and an oversized security risk.

<https://rusi.org/commentary/huawei-not-all-way>

For more on this theme:

(Global, Cyprus) Mysterious GPS outages are wracking the shipping industry

<https://fortune.com/longform/gps-outages-maritime-shipping-industry/>

(U.S.) Cyber Risks Cloud Census With Resources, Congress Seats at Stake

<https://about.bgov.com/news/cyber-risks-cloud-census-with-resources-congress-seats-at-stake/>

COMBATING TERRORISM AND CYBER CRIME

AI Opens Up New Ways To Fight Illegal Opioid Sales And Other Cybercrime

Daniel Nelson – Unite.AI: 25 January 2020

A new tool is being implemented by the U.S. National Institute on Drug Abuse for tracking internet pharmaceutical markets to suppress the illegal sale of opioids online. This artificial intelligence approach could also be used against other forms of cyber crime.

<https://www.unite.ai/ai-opens-up-new-ways-to-fight-illegal-opiod-sales-and-other-cybercrime/>

For more on this theme:

(U.S.) Fake Smart Factory Captures Real Cyber-threats

<https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/news/fake-smart-factory-captures-real/>

(Korea, U.S.) Ctg counter terrorism unit to get cyber lab

<https://www.thedailystar.net/city/news/ctg-counter-terrorism-unit-get-cyber-lab-1860061>

(U.S.) Thanks to Legal Hackers, hackathons are an important tool for making law more accessible

<http://www.abajournal.com/legalrebels/article/thanks-to-legal-hackers-hackathons-are-an-important-tool-for-making-law-more-accessible>

Mass Surveillance and Intelligence Gathering Facial Recognition

Meher Ahmad, Adrian Chen, Chris Outcalt and Joy Shan – The California Sunday Magazine: 22 January 2020

A series of articles delves deeply into facial recognition, including exploring its history and recent opposition to its use; how the technology works; how law enforcement is becoming dependent on it; how protestors in Hong Kong are defeating its use; and how it is being incorporated by a variety of organizations for different purposes.

<https://story.californiasunday.com/facial-recognition>

For more on this theme:

(U.S.) The Apple vs. Dept. of Justice Battle Rages On; Company Refuses New Request for an iPhone Backdoor

<https://www.cpomagazine.com/data-privacy/the-apple-vs-dept-of-justice-battle-rages-on-company-refuses-new-request-for-an-iphone-backdoor/>

(U.K., Global) Privacy International Report on “Cloud Extraction” Programs Sheds Light on Far-Reaching Government Surveillance Technology

<https://www.cpomagazine.com/data-privacy/privacy-international-report-on-cloud-extraction-programs-sheds-light-on-far-reaching-government-surveillance-technology/>

(U.K.) These activists use makeup to defy mass surveillance

https://i-d.vice.com/en_uk/article/jge5jg/dazzle-club-surveillance-activists-makeup-marches-london-interview

PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

ISIS

ISIS and Their Use of Slavery

Nadia Al-Dayel and Andrew Mumford – International Centre for Counter-Terrorism: 27 January 2020

The breadth at which slavery and sexual violence spread across ISIS’ occupied territory in Iraq and Syria is staggering, as well as the depth in which these crimes permeated the socioeconomic culture of the organization and even the families in the Islamic State – including foreign fighters.

<https://icct.nl/publication/isis-and-their-use-of-slavery/>

How a dispute over European ISIS members split a ruling coalition

Anthony Dworkin – European Council on Foreign Relations: 24 January 2020

European governments face a growing dilemma over what to do with their citizens who joined the Islamic State terrorist group and were then taken captive by local forces as the caliphate collapsed. Fear of the political consequences of bringing European ISIS supporters back from Syria has been the most powerful reason why governments have done so little.

https://www.ecfr.eu/article/commentary_how_a_dispute_over_european_isis_members_split_a_ruling_coalition

For more on this theme:

After making gains without geographical control, is ISIS able to return to Syria?

<https://english.enabbaladi.net/archives/2020/01/after-making-gains-without-geographical-control-is-isis-able-to-return-to-syria/>

Joint Statement by the Political Directors of the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS

<https://www.state.gov/joint-statement-by-the-political-directors-of-the-global-coalition-to-defeat-isis-2/>

Egyptian Court Hands Life Sentence to 8 ISIS-Linked Militants

<https://aawsat.com/english/home/article/2101946/egyptian-court-hands-life-sentence-8-isis-linked-militants>

US remains 'committed' to preventing ISIS resurgence in Iraq

<https://www.thenational.ae/world/mena/us-remains-committed-to-preventing-isis-resurgence-in-iraq-1.969882>

General: US Committed to Syria Fight; Missions up against ISIS

<https://aawsat.com/english/home/article/2099886/general-us-committed-syria-fight-missions-against-isis>

Kurdistan Region PM meets German gov. delegation to talk Peshmerga support, ISIS threat

<https://www.kurdistan24.net/en/news/3f502c50-a24c-408b-9eea-d3b7c5af4032>

ISIS plans to attack Israel; Iranian general warns of retaliation; Violence in Iraq

<https://bulgarianmilitary.com/2020/01/28/isis-plans-to-attack-israel-iranian-general-warns-of-retaliation-violence-in-iraq/>

Buckingham Palace sword attacker who supports ISIS 'planned to kill non-Muslims after he left jail'

<https://www.thenational.ae/world/europe/buckingham-palace-sword-attacker-who-supports-isis-planned-to-kill-non-muslims-after-he-left-jail-1.970610>

Police arrest 10 ISIS suspects in Turkish capital Ankara: security

<https://www.kurdistan24.net/en/news/3fb2c816-d558-4b8b-8623-3796d185f80d>

FOREIGN FIGHTERS

France Judges Dead Jihadists but Refuses to Repatriate the Living

Constant Méheut – The New York Times: 26 January 2020

The French government wants to prosecute terrorism suspects, hoping to prevent them from falling through legal cracks, while trying to piece together how the networks operated for evidence in future trials. But it does not want the trials conducted on its territory.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/01/26/world/europe/france-ghost-trials-isis.html>

For more on this theme:

Foreigners from Canada among those captured during fight against ISIS in Afghanistan, UN says

<https://globalnews.ca/news/6479739/canada-fight-against-isis-afghanistan/>

Kosovo woman faces terror charges for allegedly joining IS

<https://apnews.com/f53f30d8571b0b4da2921335c211bae4>

Muslim group supports proposed Anti-Terrorism Bill

<https://guardian.co.tt/news/muslim-group-supports-proposed-antiterrorism-bill-6.2.1040391.f5be5f8a2f>

8 ethnic Albanians convicted in Kosovo of terrorism charges

<https://apnews.com/4f8a36c0586603c26b625a6d70443473>

Bukit Aman: 56 Malaysians still held in Syria for alleged terrorism

<https://www.malaymail.com/news/malaysia/2020/01/30/bukit-aman-56-malaysians-still-held-in-syria-for-alleged-terrorism/1833019>

Judge OKs classified information status in terrorism case

<https://apnews.com/13c8efe0f236b0de964d1747ffcf3ab>

TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

Nuclear terrorism: US officials say it's best to plan for the worst

Jay A. Tilden and Dallas Boyd – *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*: 30 January 2020

While terrorists in possession of a nuclear device would have many options beyond its immediate detonation, a strategy that denies them a weapon in the first place eliminates all possible opportunities.

<https://thebulletin.org/2020/01/nuclear-terrorism-us-officials-say-its-best-to-plan-for-the-worst/>

Trials in terrorism cases suffer due to lack of witness protection

Naeem Sahoutara – *Dawn*: 26 January 2020

A Pakistani judge conducting the trial of two people with alleged ISIS affiliations has directed the police to provide protection to two prosecution witnesses in return for testifying. The judge added: “The public has become too frightened to assist the system fighting against terrorism.”

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1530503/trials-in-terrorism-cases-suffer-due-to-lack-of-witness-protection>

For more on this theme:

The socio-psychological impact of terrorism on Pakistani society

<https://theasiadialogue.com/2020/01/30/the-socio-psychological-impact-of-terrorism-on-pakistani-society/>

‘Military committed to ending terrorism’

<https://www.vanguardngr.com/2020/01/military-committed-to-ending-terrorism/>

Egypt's parliament introduces new amendments to terrorism law

<https://www.egyptindependent.com/egypts-parliament-introduces-new-amendments-to-terrorism-law/>

Jordanian charged with terrorism over stabbing of tourists

<http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/275145>

JNIM targets military bases in central Mali

<https://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2020/01/jnim-targets-military-bases-in-central-mali.php>

Brussels man sentenced to five years in Liege for terrorism

<https://www.brusselstimes.com/all-news/belgium-all-news/91581/brussels-man-sentenced-to-five-years-in-liege-for-terrorism-is-killings-kidnappings-radical-drugs-fined/>

Libyan Militant Is Sentenced to 19 Years in Deadly Benghazi Attacks

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/01/23/us/benghazi-attack-mustafa-al-imam.html>

Czech Republic to send troops to Africa anti-terror mission

<https://apnews.com/a0ec838a0957547e97b5d10f4d1b7f49>

Terrorism Index: PDP urges NASS to intervene in security situation

<https://www.vanguardngr.com/2020/01/terrorism-index-pdp-urges-nass-to-intervene-in-security-situation/>

Russia Independent Media Rally to Cause of Jailed Journalist

<https://www.voanews.com/press-freedom/russia-independent-media-rally-cause-jailed-journalist>

Senate: security system can't tackle terrorism, killings

<https://thenationonlineng.net/senate-security-system-cant-tackle-terrorism-killings/>

As US Eyes Drawdown, Violence Rattles Sahel Region

<https://www.voanews.com/extremism-watch/us-eyes-drawdown-violence-rattles-sahel-region>

Afghan forces rescue more than 60 hostages from Taliban prison in night raid

https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia_pacific/afghan-forces-rescue-more-than-60-hostages-from-taliban-prison-in-night-raid/2020/01/29/86ae33f6-42b8-11ea-b5fc-eefa848cde99_story.html

RADICALIZATION AND MESSAGING

Study of YouTube comments finds evidence of radicalization effect

Natasha Lomas – TechCrunch: 28 January 2020

New research supports the notion that YouTube’s platform is playing a role in radicalizing users via exposure to far-right ideologies. The findings suggest a pipeline effect over several years: Users who started out commenting on milder content shifted over time to commenting on extreme far-right content on the platform.

<https://techcrunch.com/2020/01/28/study-of-youtube-comments-finds-evidence-of-radicalization-effect/>

Full study:

[Auditing radicalization pathways on YouTube](#)

Iran’s Supreme Messaging

Jason Brodsky – *The Cipher Brief*: 27 January 2020

The messaging by Iran’s Ayatollah Ali Khamenei defines much of the political debate within the Nezam – Iran’s political system. Because the ayatollah includes incendiary messages for different constituencies, the various power centers of the Islamic Republic cherry pick from his lengthy diatribes to promote their brands and interests.

<https://www.thecipherbrief.com/column/agenda-setter/irans-supreme-messaging>

For more on this theme:

Magufuli’s Reign and Tanzania’s Creeping Radicalization Issue

<https://jamestown.org/program/magufulis-reign-and-tanzanias-creeping-radicalization-issue/>

Did Tweets Help Deescalate Recent US-Iran Tensions?

<https://www.voanews.com/extremism-watch/did-tweets-help-deescalate-recent-us-iran-tensions>

FINANCING TERROR

Top US official on Iran says China’s oil purchases are ‘funding Iran’s terrorism’

Owen Churchill – *South China Morning Post*: 25 January 2020

Washington’s top Iran official has accused China of financing terrorism by continuing to buy Iranian crude oil and urged Beijing to take the long view by siding with the Iranian people rather than the government. “As long as they’re funding Iran’s terrorism through oil purchases, the Middle East is going to be unstable,” said Brian Hook, U.S. special representative for Iran.

<https://www.scmp.com/print/news/china/politics/article/3047630/top-us-official-iran-says-chinas-oil-purchases-are-funding>

For more on this theme:

Bitcoin and Terror-financing: a game of ‘catch me if you can’

<https://eng.ambcrypto.com/bitcoin-and-terror-financing-a-game-of-catch-me-if-you-can/>

Moneyval notes progress in tackling money laundering, terrorist financing

https://bbj.hu/economy/moneyval-notes-progress-in-tackling-money-laundering-terrorist-financing--_177338

US statement on curbing terror financing has praise, warning for Pak

https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/us-statement-on-curbing-terror-financing-has-praise-warning-for-pak-120012500448_1.html

UAE signs MoU with Bahrain, Namibia to combat money laundering and financial terrorism

<http://wam.ae/en/details/1395302819670>

Australia supported FATF grey listing of Pak based on its performance on tackling terrorism: Envoy.

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/pakistan/australia-supported-fatf-grey-listing-of-pak-based-on-its-performance-on-tackling-terrorism-envoy/articleshow/73743752.cms>

IRREGULAR WARFARE: SOFT POWER

Russia Touts Arms Across Southeast Asia

Luke Hunt – Voice of America: 18 January 2020

Russia is rapidly expanding foreign arms deals worldwide. According to reports, Moscow has signed military cooperation pacts with 39 countries in the last five years, many of them in Southeast Asia, including Laos, which has not been buying Russian weapons on this scale for decades.

<https://www.voanews.com/east-asia-pacific/russia-touts-arms-across-southeast-asia>

For more on this theme:

Harvard professor charged with hiding China ties, payments

<https://apnews.com/90af50ee87d5679d51177210f763e153>

Cyber attack is 'new wave of terrorism,' St. Lucie County sheriff says

<https://www.tcpalm.com/story/news/crime/st-lucie-county/2020/01/29/sheriff-ken-mascara-said-cyber-attack-new-wave-terrorism/4607260002/>