

THE MARSHALL CENTER

transnational weekly



A CURRENT AWARENESS SERVICE FROM THE MARSHALL CENTER

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COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

How is corruption like snow?

Moisés Naím – El País: 11 February 2020

The words “accountability” and “whistleblower” do not exist in Spanish, making it more difficult to fight corruption in the nations where that language is spoken.

<https://english.elpais.com/opinion/2020-02-11/how-is-corruption-like-snow.html>

Will Vietnam's War on Corruption Heat up in 2020?

Hai Hong Nguyen – The Diplomat: 12 February 2020

It appears that Nguyen Phu Trong, the Communist Party of Vietnam general secretary and state president, is serious about fighting corruption. Even with numerous projects going on, anti-graft measures seem to be at the forefront of the agenda.

<https://thediplomat.com/2020/02/will-vietnams-war-on-corruption-heat-up-in-2020/>

For more on this theme:

Arrest of Former Oil Chief Is a Win for Mexico's Anti-Corruption Drive

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/02/12/world/americas/mexico-lozoya-pemex-odebrecht.html>

Airbus reports billions in losses after corruption fines

<https://www.dw.com/en/airbus-reports-billions-in-losses-after-corruption-fines/a-52360797>

Is Cambodia's education system corrupted?

<https://theasianpost.com/article/cambodias-education-system-corrupted>

Will Papua New Guinea get serious about corruption?

<https://voices.transparency.org/will-papua-new-guinea-get-serious-about-corruption-f66aa53f89e>

Pacific leaders agree on vision to tackle corruption in region

<https://www.rnz.co.nz/international/pacific-news/409448/pacific-leaders-agree-on-vision-to-tackle-corruption-in-region>

Has Suu Kyi made Myanmar less corrupt?

<https://www.asiatimes.com/2020/02/article/has-suu-kyi-made-myanmar-less-corrupt/>

Lebanese Activists Wage Their Own Anti-Corruption War

<https://www.occrp.org/en/daily/11586-lebanese-activists-fighting-corruption-at-the-syrian-border>

Anti-corruption and police integrity bodies reject call to reduce data retention period

<https://www.zdnet.com/article/anti-corruption-and-police-integrity-bodies-reject-call-to-reduce-data-retention-period/>

Kosovo* authorities discuss contribution of anti-corruption measures to fight against ML/TF

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/pristina/-/kosovo-authorities-discuss-contribution-of-anti-corruption-measures-to-fight-against-ml-tf>

DRUG TRAFFICKING

Zero tolerance policy to realise PM's vision of drug-free India

BioSpectrum: 13 February 2020

Resolving to prohibit the illicit trade of narcotics in India, Minister of Home Affairs Amit Shah stressed the need for all countries, particularly the Bay of Bengal littoral states, to combat the global menace by engaging with one another in an exchange of ideas, policies and best practices.

<https://www.biospectrumindia.com/news/22/15781/zero-tolerance-policy-to-realise-pms-vision-of-drug-free-india.html>

ONDCP Releases Data on Poppy Cultivation and Potential Opium Production in Afghanistan

The U.S. White House: 7 February 2020

Afghanistan could experience one of the highest opium yields in nearly a decade despite 146,000 fewer acres – the equivalent of 111,000 football fields – being planted with poppies last year, U.S. government estimates show.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/ondcp-releases-data-poppy-cultivation-potential-opium-production-afghanistan/>

For more on this theme:

Despite counter measures, drug trafficking from Afghanistan-Pak reached 'new heights': Think-tank

<https://www.devdiscourse.com/article/international/874417-despite-counter-measures-drug-trafficking-from-afghanistan-pak-reached-new-heights-think-tank>

Trump Administration Seeks Increased Funding to Continue Curbing Drug Crisis

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/trump-administration-seeks-increased-funding-continue-curbing-drug-crisis/>

An associate of the drug cartel once run by El Chapo has been charged with participating in an international drug conspiracy

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/02/11/us/sinaloa-cartel-member-arrested/index.html>

El Chapo's Conviction Changed Everything and Nothing About the War on Drugs

https://www.vice.com/en_us/article/k7e37a/el-chapos-conviction-changed-everything-and-nothing-about-the-war-on-drugs

UK drug barons ditch banks for money service businesses

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2020/feb/13/uk-drug-barons-ditch-banks-for-money-service-businesses>

Gangs groom parents to draw teenagers into drug trade

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/gangs-groom-parents-to-draw-teenagers-into-drug-trade-0jcncl37c>

Send In The Marines: Mexico Has A Plan To Win Its Long Drug War

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/send-marines-mexico-has-plan-win-its-long-drug-war-121021>

TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

Illegal pangolin trade may have played a part in coronavirus outbreak

Malavika Vyawahare – Mongabay: 13 February 2020

Continued research on the origins of the novel coronavirus sweeping through China suggests that the virus could have been transmitted to humans from bats via pangolins.

<https://news.mongabay.com/2020/02/illegal-pangolin-trade-may-have-played-a-part-in-coronavirus-outbreak/>

How Rampant Illegal Fishing Is Destabilizing Somalia

Munyaradzi Makoni – Hakai Magazine: 6 February 2020

New research from two separate reports highlights how illegal fishing hurts Somalia's economy, exacerbates conflicts, and upsets political stability.

<https://www.hakaimagazine.com/news/how-rampant-illegal-fishing-is-destabilizing-somalia/>

For more on this theme:

China's wild animal trade should be banned for good if future viruses are to be stopped, activists warn

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/02/12/chinas-wild-animal-trade-changed-for-good-by-coronavirus.html>

Will The Coronavirus Outbreak Affect China's Wet Markets and Illegal Animal Trade?

<https://www.rfa.org/english/commentaries/coronavirus-wildlife-02102020170525.html>

Coronavirus: Illegal wildlife traders cash in on virus by selling 'cures' of horn from endangered rhinos

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/asia/coronavirus-china-cure-rhino-horn-medicine-north-korea-outbreak-a9325856.html>

Rwanda grapples with rampant illegal fishing, low production

<https://www.seafoodsource.com/news/supply-trade/rwanda-grapples-with-rampant-illegal-fishing-low-production>

The African Coastline Is a Battleground for Foreign Fleets and Artisanal Fishers

<https://www.hakaimagazine.com/news/the-african-coastline-is-a-battleground-for-foreign-fleets-and-artisanal-fishers/>

The scientists restoring a gold-mining disaster zone in the Peruvian Amazon

<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-020-00119-z>

Brazil authorizes national security force to fight deforestation

<https://www.nasdaq.com/articles/brazil-authorizes-national-security-force-to-fight-deforestation-2020-02-10>

The Trafficking of Pangolin Scales Must Be Tackled as a Transnational Organised Crime Says New Report From the Wildlife Justice Commission

<https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/the-trafficking-of-pangolin-scales-must-be-tackled-as-a-transnational-organised-crime-says-new-report-from-the-wildlife-justice-commission-301001006.html>

Myanmar steps up fight against illicit trade

<https://unctad.org/en/pages/newsdetails.aspx?OriginalVersionID=2280>

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND IRREGULAR MIGRATION

Ethiopians' dangerous path to Saudi Arabia in hopes of work

*Maggie Michael, Nariman El-Mofty and Maad Al-Zekri - The Associated Press:
14 February 2020*

Ethiopians brave deserts and smugglers on the way to Saudi Arabia.

<https://apnews.com/9e317dcc046103015226f1bbedb8d0e7>

International Organization for Migration (IOM) Assists over 1,400 Migrants with Voluntary Return to Ghana

APO – Africa News: 12 February 2020

The IOM says it has helped 1,400 migrants from Ghana to return home after attempting to emigrate. Once the Ghanaians are home, the IOM works with local authorities to meet the immigrants' immediate needs.

<https://www.africanews.com/2020/02/12/international-organization-for-migration-iom-assists-over-1400-migrants-with-voluntary-return-to-ghana/>

For more on this theme:

International seafood buyers urge Thailand to stand strong on fisheries reforms

<https://www.seafoodsource.com/news/environment-sustainability/international-seafood-buyers-urge-thailand-to-stand-strong-on-fisheries-reforms>

In Fight to Stop Human Trafficking, Nuns Take to the Streets

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/02/09/world/europe/human-trafficking-nuns-march.html>

Human Trafficking: Monaco should raise awareness, train professionals, with focus on victims' rights

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/portal/-/human-trafficking-monaco-should-raise-awareness-train-professionals-with-focus-on-victims-rights>

U.S. woman accuses Mexican church of trafficking, abuse in lawsuit

<https://www.reuters.com/article/usa-trafficking-church/us-woman-accuses-mexican-church-of-trafficking-abuse-in-lawsuit-idUSL8N2AD8VZ>

Philippines to crack down on alleged human trafficking after Kuwait reports

<https://www.arabianbusiness.com/politics-economics/439623-philippines-to-crack-down-on-alleged-human-trafficking-after-kuwait-reports>

Ending the evil of human trafficking

<https://www.dhakatribune.com/opinion/editorial/2020/02/11/ending-the-evil-of-human-trafficking>

Honduras Intensifies Border Security to Counter Illegal Immigration

<https://cis.org/Pena/Honduras-Intensifies-Border-Security-Counter-Illegal-Immigration>

Modern day slavery is happening in 'plain sight' in Scottish communities

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/crime/modern-day-slavery-happening-plain-21494002>

PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

INTERNET GOVERNANCE

Rule of Law as a key concept in the digital ecosystem during Internet Governance Forum – interview

India Education Diary: 12 February 2020

During the 2019 Internet Governance Forum in Berlin, the United Nations gathered judicial operators for a special session to discuss the challenges for judicial authorities in dealing with digital rights and digital ecosystems.

For more on this theme:

(Europe) Safer Internet Day: we've joined the campaign for a safer, better Internet

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/portal/-/safer-internet-day-we-ve-joined-the-campaign-for-a-safer-better-internet>

(Global) Q+A: Organizing the .orgs — Who Should Be Keeper of the Domain?

<https://newsblog.drexel.edu/2020/02/07/qa-organizing-the-orgs-who-should-be-keeper-of-the-domain/>

(U.K.) 5 things you need to know as Ofcom takes on social media governance

<https://www.thedrum.com/news/2020/02/12/5-things-you-need-know-ofcom-takes-social-media-governance>

INTERNET FREEDOM

When it Comes to Digital Authoritarianism, China is a Challenge — But Not the Only Challenge

Steven Feldstein – War on the Rocks: 12 February 2020

Not only is China's draconian censorship of the internet a problem, but the fact that it exports this practice to authoritarian regimes intensifies the issue. And China isn't the only one supplying such technology – countries in the West are to blame as well.

<https://warontherocks.com/2020/02/when-it-comes-to-digital-authoritarianism-china-is-a-challenge-but-not-the-only-challenge/>

For more on this theme:

(BRICS) BRICS countries to build digital sovereignty - Luca Belli, CyberBRICS

<https://www.medianama.com/2020/02/223-brics-countries-to-build-digital-sovereignty-luca-belli-cyber-brics/>

(Kashmir) Internet services snapped in Kashmir after rumours surrounding Geelani's health

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/mumbai/internet-shutdowns-show-lack-of-accountability/article30766151.ece>

(India) 'Internet shutdowns show lack of accountability'

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/mumbai/internet-shutdowns-show-lack-of-accountability/article30766151.ece>

PRIVACY AND SECURITY

AI could constantly scan the internet for data privacy violations, a quicker, easier way to enforce compliance

Karuna Pande Joshi – The Conversation: 7 February 2020

A research group at the University of Maryland developed technology for machines to understand data privacy laws and enforce compliance using artificial intelligence. These technologies will enable companies to make sure their services comply with privacy laws and help governments identify in real time those companies that violate consumers' privacy rights.

<https://theconversation.com/ai-could-constantly-scan-the-internet-for-data-privacy-violations-a-quicker-easier-way-to-enforce-compliance-128973>

For more on this theme:

(Global) The future of DNS security: From extremes to a new equilibrium

<https://www.helpnetsecurity.com/2020/02/10/future-dns-security/>

(U.S.) An algorithm that grants freedom, or takes it away

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/02/06/technology/predictive-algorithms-crime.html>

(Global) Safer Internet Day Special: Is Data Dignity the Way Forward for Privacy?

<https://www.martechadvisor.com/articles/data-governance/data-dignity-for-better-data-privacy/>

CYBER STATECRAFT DEVELOPMENT

e-Governance: The key to empower citizens

Business Today: 14 February 2020

As digital technologies grow, the importance of e-governance also grows. The burden on the current infrastructure and the need to open services to all citizens are two factors pushing India to expand e-governance offerings.

<https://www.businesstoday.in/impact-feature/corporate/e-governance-the-key-to-empower-citizens/story/396035.html>

For more on this theme:

(China) China and the new art of i-war

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/inquirer/china-and-the-new-art-of-iwar/news-story/e4cd-749627d8901166174ce4d3a7aea9>

(Nigeria) NCC: Internet Governance Initiatives

<https://sundiatapost.com/ncc-internet-governance-initiatives/>

(Japan, EU) Society 5.0: EU-Japanese Cooperation And Opportunities And Challenges Posed By Data Economy – Analysis

<https://www.eurasiareview.com/08022020-society-5-0-eu-japanese-cooperation-and-opportunities-and-challenges-posed-by-data-economy-analysis/>

CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING

Australian companies are getting hack ready

Tony Featherstone – Australian Financial Review: 8 February 2020

In Australia, cyber crime costs the economy up to \$1 billion annually. And the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission says Australia is an “attractive target for serious and organised (cyber) crime syndicates.” It’s time for Australia to get its products and offerings secured against hackers.

<https://www.afr.com/policy/foreign-affairs/australian-companies-are-getting-hack-ready-20200101-p53o5a>

For more on this theme:

(Zambia) Zambia regulator digs in heels over non-expiry data bundles

<http://www.itwebafrica.com/ict-and-governance/271-zambia/247009-zambia-regulator-digs-in-heels-over-non-expiry-data-bundles>

(Middle East) The Fourth Industrial Revolution is coming to the Middle East

https://www.zawya.com/mena/en/business/story/The_Fourth_Industrial_Revolution_is_coming_to_the_Middle_East-SNG_166787604/

(Taiwan) The Taiwan Election: Dealing with Disinformation while Protecting Speech

<https://www.cato.org/blog/taiwan-election-dealing-disinformation-while-protecting-speech>

NOTEWORTHY PODCASTS

The Chameleon attacks Online Social Networks.

The CyberWire: 8 February 2020

The chameleon attack technique is a new type of online social networks-based trickery in which malicious posts and profiles change the way they are displayed to avoid detection. Ben-Gurion University’s Rami Puzis discusses the findings in a new report, “The Chameleon Attack: Manipulating Content Display in Online Social Media.”

<https://thecyberwire.com/podcasts/cw-podcasts-rs-2020-02-08.html>

For more on this theme:

(U.S.) Some companies unsatisfied with new cyber rules to protect the federal communications supply chain

<https://federalnewsnetwork.com/cybersecurity/2020/02/some-companies-unsatisfied-with-new-cyber-rules-to-protect-the-federal-communications-supply-chain/>

(Global) Fake news and misplaced trust.

<https://thecyberwire.com/podcasts/cw-podcasts-hh-2020-02-13.html>

(Global) Cyber Security Today – Another PayPal scam, Estee Lauder leaves database open and Canadian banks get tough on customers

<https://www.itworldcanada.com/article/cyber-security-today-another-paypal-scam-estee-lauder-leaves-database-open-and-canadian-banks-get-tough-on-customers/427199>

(Global) Current trends in cybersecurity

<https://federalnewsnetwork.com/off-the-shelf/2020/02/current-trends-in-cybersecurity/>

INFORMATION SHARING

New Counterintelligence Strategy to Boost Sharing on Cyber Threats

Mariam Baksh – Defense One: 5 February 2020

The U.S. Office of the Director of National Intelligence will take a “whole of society” approach to encourage greater private-sector participation in protecting the country from cyber threats, according to Bill Evanina, director of the office’s National Counterintelligence and Security Center.

<https://www.defenseone.com/threats/2020/02/odni-plans-share-more-about-cyber-threats-under-new-counterintelligence-strategy/162896/>

For more on this theme:

(Israel, Global) Israeli Cyber Experts Call for Global Cooperation to Counter Attacks

<https://themedialine.org/life-lines/israeli-cyber-experts-call-for-global-cooperation-to-counter-attacks/>

(U.S.) How Can State and Local Agencies Better Collaborate on Cybersecurity?

<https://statetechmagazine.com/article/2020/02/how-can-state-and-local-agencies-better-collaborate-cybersecurity>

(U.S.) U.S. DOE, U.S. DHS, and U.S. DoD announce pathfinder initiative

http://www.digitalenergyjournal.com/n/US_DOE_US_DHS_and_US_DoD_announce_pathfinder_initiative/4e942a74.aspx

THREATS, ATTACKS AND VULNERABILITIES

U.S. charges four Chinese military hackers in 2017 Equifax breach

Reuters: 10 February 2020

In a sweeping nine-count indictment, the U.S. Department of Justice alleged that four members of China’s People’s Liberation Army were behind the Equifax hack, the culmination of a years-long investigation. In terms of the number of U.S. citizens affected, it’s one of the biggest state-sponsored thefts of personally identifiable information on record.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-justice-cyber/u-s-charges-four-chinese-military-hackers-in-2017-equifax-breach-idUSKBN2041RT>

For more on this theme:

(Iran, Global) Cybersecurity: Iran faces massive Internet shutdown due to powerful cyberattack

<https://www.ibtimes.sg/cybersecurity-iran-faces-massive-internet-shutdown-due-powerful-cyberattack-39154>

(Global) Truth in Web Digital Identity?

http://www.circleid.com/posts/20200209_truth_in_web_digital_identity/

(U.S., Global) Trump administration wants private sector to do more to counter foreign intelligence efforts

<https://www.cyberscoop.com/trump-administration-wants-private-sector-counter-foreign-intelligence-efforts/>

COMBATING TERRORISM AND CYBER CRIME

The fight against cyber crime: Why cooperation matters

Elisabetta Zaccaria – Computer Weekly: 4 February 2020

There is a rising consensus at the institutional level that no individual stakeholder can address the breadth of today's cyber security challenges. At the same time, there is an understanding that a global internet governance model is needed to effectively address cyber threats.

<https://www.computerweekly.com/opinion/The-fight-against-cyber-crime-why-cooperation-matters>

For more on this theme:

(Global) Why cyber-risk should take centre stage in financial services

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/02/cyber-risk-should-take-centre-stage-in-financial-services/>

(Global) Reuters creates a team of fact checkers to flag fake news and misleading photos on Facebook and Instagram

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-7997471/Reuters-creates-dedicated-four-person-team-fact-checkers-monitor-Facebook-Instagram.html>

(Global) Cyber-crime profits reached \$3.5bn in 2019, says FBI

<https://www.bbc.com/news/technology-51474109>

(China, Global) Chinese cyber criminals are getting more organized and dangerous

<https://www.techrepublic.com/article/chinese-cyber-criminals-are-getting-more-organized-and-dangerous/>

PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

ISIS

ISIS in Afghanistan was 'obliterated,' but fighters who escaped could stage resurgence

*Susannah George, Siobhán O'Grady and Sharif Hassan – The Washington Post:
10 February 2020*

While ISIS has been largely defeated in Afghanistan, some fighters have crossed into Pakistan or gone into hiding. The potential for a resurgence exists if the remaining members can pull themselves together.

<https://www.stripes.com/news/middle-east/isis-in-afghanistan-was-obliterated-but-fighters-who-escaped-could-stage-resurgence-1.618220>

Tracking IS from Syria to the Philippines

Quentin Sommerville – BBC: 9 February 2020

The BBC's Middle East correspondent Quentin Sommerville follows the spread of Islamic State, from Syria to the Philippines.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/av/world-51416501/tracking-is-from-syria-to-the-philippines>

For more on this theme:

Suicide by cop: How Isis-inspired terrorists 'emulate each other' to generate maximum fear

<https://news.yahoo.com/suicide-by-cop-the-isis-weapon-of-choice-terrorists-emulate-each-other-160432772.html>

Underlying causes of the rise of ISIS 'unaddressed:' Kurdistan Region PM

<https://www.kurdistan24.net/en/news/c946df30-26bd-48e3-9f62-de03a7bb615b>

Islamic State Poised for Comeback, US Defense Officials Report

<https://www.voanews.com/middle-east/islamic-state-poised-comeback-us-defense-officials-report>

The female ISIS members - victims or criminals?

<https://www.fairplanet.org/story/the-female-isis-members-victims-or-criminals/>

Pentagon Report: Death of Al-Baghdadi Had Little Impact on ISIS Capabilities

https://www.theepochtimes.com/pentagon-report-death-of-al-baghdadi-had-little-impact-on-isis-capabilities_3229493.html

Munich Security Conference: ISIS poses 'continued threat' says PM Barzani

<https://www.rudaw.net/english/world/130220201>

ISIS 'Remains at the Center' of Global Terror Threat, UN Official Tells Security Council

<https://www.hstoday.us/subject-matter-areas/counterterrorism/isis-remains-at-the-center-of-global-terror-threat-un-official-tells-security-council/>

ISIS Claims Algeria Border Attack

<https://aawsat.com/english/home/article/2126531/isis-claims-algeria-border-attack>

FOREIGN FIGHTERS

Indonesia says it won't repatriate nearly 700 ISIS fighters from Syria

The Defense Post: 12 February 2020

Indonesia's government has banned citizens who joined the Islamic State in Syria from returning home, citing national security concerns.

<https://thedefensepost.com/2020/02/12/indonesia-repatriate-700-isis-fighters/>

Syrian Kurds to begin trials for foreign ISIS fighters next month

Tessa Fox – The National: 12 February 2020

Many nations have refused to repatriate fighters to face justice at home, leaving Kurdish authorities to find a solution. After months of deadlock, the Kurdish government will begin trials of foreign ISIS members next month.

<https://www.thenational.ae/world/mena/syrian-kurds-to-begin-trials-for-foreign-isis-fighters-next-month-1.978070>

For more on this theme:

Stuck in Syria: 'Can you forgive your IS father?'

<https://www.bbc.com/news/av/51361483/stuck-in-syria-can-you-forgive-your-is-father>

Latvians In Foreign Conflicts. How Many? – OpEd

<https://www.eurasiareview.com/05022020-latvians-in-foreign-conflicts-how-many-oped/>

Brussels Calls For Overturning Judicial Ruling to Repatriate 10 ISIS Kids

<https://aawsat.com/english/home/article/2121481/brussels-calls-overturning-judicial-ruling-repatriate-10-isis-kids>

How a Sleepy Bengaluru Neighbourhood Woke up in Shock When ISIS Knocked on the Door

<https://www.news18.com/news/india/how-a-sleepy-bengaluru-neighbourhood-woke-up-in-shock-when-isis-knocked-on-the-door-2495557.html>

Russia repatriates orphans of suspected Islamic State fighters in Syria

<https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/russia-repatriates-26-islamic-state-linked-children-syria>

The Fate of Foreign Fighters

<https://www.thecipherbrief.com/column/soufan-center/the-fate-of-foreign-fighters>

Widowed, imprisoned, detained: remnants of Islamic State in limbo in Syria

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-prisoners-wideri/widowed-imprisoned-detained-remnants-of-islamic-state-in-limbo-in-syria-idUSKBN20617N>

TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

Surging Jihadist Wave In Western Africa: Conflict Spillover – Analysis

Dr. Shanthie Mariet D. Souza and Dr. Bibhu Prasad Routray – Eurasia Review:

13 February 2020

Away from the gaze of most international media, the latest in a string of increasingly deadly insurgent attacks unfolded in relative obscurity in the Sahel region of West Africa, which is now one of the largest hotbeds of terrorism. Not a week passes without news of a terror attack in the region.

<https://www.eurasiareview.com/13022020-surging-jihadist-wave-in-western-africa-conflict-spillover-analysis/>

Taliban escalation drives increase in terror deaths, although global violence is declining, says Jane's

Jane's: 12 February 2020

A new analysis from Jane's Terrorism and Insurgency Centre says the Afghanistan-based Taliban has surpassed the Islamic State to become the world's deadliest nonstate armed group. The group reported that while terrorist attacks decreased 10% to 14,009 in 2019, the lowest level since 2011, Taliban attacks increased by almost 90%, resulting in a 60% increase in deaths. The data shows that the Taliban accounted for more deaths than the next nine deadliest groups combined.

<https://www.janes.com/article/94234/taliban-escalation-drives-increase-in-terror-deaths-although-global-violence-is-declining-says-jane-s>

For more on this theme:

Boko Haram/ISWAP: Army reveals plan for ISIS terrorists in Nigeria

<https://dailypost.ng/2020/02/08/boko-haram-iswap-army-reveals-plan-for-isis-terrorists-in-nigeria/>

Suspected Boko Haram Islamists kill at least 30 in northeast Nigeria: residents

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-nigeria-security/suspected-boko-haram-islamists-kill-at-least-30-in-northeast-nigeria-residents-idUSKBN2042DJ>

Ehsanullah Ehsan's Escape and Pakistan's Militant Landscape

<https://thediplomat.com/2020/02/ehsanullah-ehsans-escape-and-pakistans-militant-landscape/>

Who's behind the violence in Mozambique's Cabo Delgado?

<https://www.thenewhumanitarian.org/analysis/2020/02/12/Mozambique-Cabo-Delgado-militancy-Islamic-State-Al-Shabab>

US Warns Containment the Only Option for Some African Terror Groups

<https://www.voanews.com/africa/us-warns-containment-only-option-some-african-terror-groups>

Military Failures Mount in Borno Against Boko Haram

<https://www.cfr.org/blog/military-failures-mount-borno-against-boko-haram>

Can the African Union help Mozambique combat terrorism?

<https://issafrica.org/iss-today/can-the-african-union-help-mozambique-combat-terrorism>

RADICALIZATION AND MESSAGING

Time to rethink the prevention of violent extremism in Africa

Isel van Zyl – Institute for Security Studies: 30 January 2020

The past year has seen an uptick in terrorism and efforts to counter it in Africa. So, what have interventions to prevent and counter violent extremism achieved in the past decade, and how can they be improved for the next 10 years?

<https://issafrica.org/iss-today/time-to-rethink-the-prevention-of-violent-extremism-in-africa>

Afghan Women's Views on Violent Extremism and Aspirations to a Peacemaking Role

Haseeb Humayoon and Mustafa Basij-Rasikh – Small Wars Journal: February 2020

Based on extensive interviews throughout Afghanistan, this report attempts to better understand the changing public role of Afghan women today and their contributions to peace building and ending violence.

<https://smallwarsjournal.com/jrnl/art/afghan-womens-views-violent-extremism-and-aspirations-peace-making-role>

For more on this theme:

African Governments Alone Cannot Address Extremism: South African Scholar

<https://iqna.ir/en/news/3470495/african-governments-alone-cannot-address-extremism-south-african-scholar>

We need to get to potential terrorists before radicalisation, not afterwards

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/feb/03/potential-terrorists-before-radicalisation-extremist-propaganda>

Psychology Isn't Enough

<https://bylinetimes.com/2020/02/05/psychology-isnt-enough-the-failure-to-prevent-individual-terror-attacks/>

Negative consequences of antiterrorism policy in Europe

<https://phys.org/news/2020-02-negative-consequences-antiterrorism-policy-europe.html>

'I was in al-Qaeda, then spied for MI6 – I know deradicalisation doesn't work'

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/men/thinking-man/al-qaeda-spied-mi6-know-deradicalisation-doesnt-work/>

Why Extremists Need Therapy

<https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2020/02/britain-london-terrorism-deradicalization/606376/>

Risks of exploitation increase as conditions deteriorate for Syrian refugees

<https://thehill.com/opinion/international/482446-risks-of-exploitation-increase-as-conditions-for-syrian-refugees>

Terror cells: how Britain's prisons became finishing schools for extremists

<https://spectator.us/terror-cells-britain-prisons-became-finishing-schools-extremists/>

The Release of the Boko Haram Prisoners: Issues Arising

<https://www.thenigerianvoice.com/news/285214/the-release-of-the-boko-haram-prisoners-issues-arising.html>

COUNTERTERRORISM STRATEGIES

Draining Coiffers, Aiding Victims of Islamic State in Iraq and Levant Crucial to Stop Group's Resurgence, Senior Counter-Terrorism Officials Tell Security Council

United Nations Security Council: 7 February 2020

Despite its losses in Iraq and Syria, ISIS remains a threat and is spreading its wings in Africa and Asia. To stop the group, the U.N. Security Council heard arguments that the global community needed to work together on finding long-term solutions.

<https://reliefweb.int/report/world/draining-coiffers-aiding-victims-islamic-state-iraq-and-levant-crucial-stop-group-s>

For more on this theme:

U.S. announces new counterterrorism task force in Kenya

<https://africatimes.com/2020/02/11/u-s-announces-new-counterterrorism-task-force-in-kenya/>

Insecurity in the Sahel won't be solved at high-level summits

<https://issafrica.org/iss-today/insecurity-in-the-sahel-wont-be-solved-at-high-level-summits>

PERSPECTIVE: Taking Away Citizenship as a Counterterrorism Tool Is Fraught with Challenges

<https://www.hstoday.us/subject-matter-areas/counterterrorism/perspective-taking-away-citizenship-as-a-counterterrorism-tool-is-fraught-with-challenges/>

Tougher Sentencing Won't Stop Terrorism

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2020/02/10/uk-streatham-london-bridge-whitemoor-tougher-sentencing-wont-stop-terrorism/>

Prevention Remains Biggest Challenge To Bosnia's Anti-Terrorism Strategy – Analysis

<https://www.eurasiareview.com/10022020-prevention-remains-biggest-challenge-to-bosnias-anti-terrorism-strategy-analysis/>