

THE MARSHALL CENTER

transnational weekly



A CURRENT AWARENESS SERVICE FROM THE MARSHALL CENTER

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COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

Luanda Leaks Corruption Files ‘Tip of the Iceberg,’ Angolan Campaigners Say

Anita Powell – *Voice of America*: 20 February 2020

Angolan activists say there’s much more to come in the “Luanda Leaks” investigation. So far, the investigation has shed light on the illicit dealings of former Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos’ daughter, the richest woman in Africa.

<https://www.voanews.com/africa/luanda-leaks-corruption-files-tip-iceberg-angolan-campaigners-say>

Corrupt Elites Siphon Aid Money Intended For World’s Poorest

Ollie Williams – *Forbes*: 20 February 2020

A new report from the World Bank has found that as much as a sixth of foreign aid intended for the world’s poorest countries has flowed into bank accounts in tax havens owned by elites.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/oliverwilliams1/2020/02/20/corrupt-elites-siphon-aid-money-intended-for-worlds-poorest/#5d032db21565>

Full Report:

Elite Capture of Foreign Aid

<http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/493201582052636710/pdf/Elite-Capture-of-Foreign-Aid-Evidence-from-Offshore-Bank-Accounts.pdf>

For more on this theme:

Malaysia encourages APEC women’s empowerment to combat corruption

<https://en.antaranews.com/news/141302/malaysia-encourages-apec-womens-empowerment-to-combat-corruption>

France: What To Do With Funds Seized From Corrupt Foreigners?

<https://www.occrp.org/en/daily/11636-france-what-to-do-with-funds-seized-from-corrupt-foreigners>

Kenya to combat drug trafficking through review of private jetties

http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-02/20/c_138799641.htm

Inflation and corruption rattle Nigeria’s economy

<https://globalvoices.org/2020/02/19/inflation-and-corruption-rattles-nigerias-economy/>

Monaco: insufficient anti-corruption progress says expert report

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/portal/-/monaco-insufficient-anti-corruption-progress-says-expert-report>

Croatia Seen Backsliding on Corruption since EU Accession

<https://balkaninsight.com/2020/02/17/croatia-seen-backsliding-on-corruption-since-eu-accession/>

Empower Women to Fight Corruption: Dr Wan Azizah

<https://modern diplomacy.eu/2020/02/17/empower-women-to-fight-corruption-dr-wan-azizah/>

DRUG TRAFFICKING

DEA Announces New Effort to Combat Distribution of Methamphetamine

City News Service – KFI AM640: 20 February 2020

The United States Drug Enforcement Administration recently announced a new effort to combat the distribution of methamphetamine through “transportation hubs.” Dubbed “Operation Crystal Shield,” the focus will be on eight major transportation hubs that accounted for more than 75% of meth seized last year.

<https://kfiam640.iheart.com/content/2020-02-20-dea-announces-new-effort-to-combat-distribution-of-methamphetamine/>

Mexico needs better law enforcement, but the solution isn't opportunistic decapitation

Vanda Felbab-Brown – Brookings: 14 February 2020

The author argues that merely returning to the opportunistic, nonstrategic, high-value targeting of Mexico's top drug traffickers that characterized the Felipe Calderón and Enrique Peña Nieto administrations — instead of systematically dismantling the operational capacities of criminal groups — will be as problematic now as then.

<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/order-from-chaos/2020/02/19/better-law-enforcement-yes-opportunistic-decapitation-no/>

For more on this theme:

'Contador' – Colombia's Sought After Patron of Cocaine

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/analysis/contador-patron-cocaine-colombia/>

White House Releases National Drug Interdiction Plan, Border Strategies

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/white-house-releases-national-drug-interdiction-plan-border-strategies/>

Malaysia: Mandatory death sentence for drug trafficking may be amended to life term, says Dr M

<https://www.thestar.com.my/news/nation/2020/02/18/mandatory-death-sentence-for-drug-trafficking-may-be-amended-to-life-term-says-dr-m>

Why People in the UK Don't Use Meth

https://www.vice.com/en_us/article/n7jdd8/uk-british-dont-use-meth

Drug traffickers to face stricter action

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/puducherry/drug-traffickers-to-face-stricter-action/article30854927.ece>

BIMSTEC Nations Conference on Combating Drug Trafficking concludes in Delhi

<https://indusdictum.com/2020/02/15/bimstec-nations-conference-on-combating-drug-trafficking-concludes-in-delhi/>

Study finds 28 percent of middle-aged kiwis have tried meth — and reveals the drug's links with violence

<https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/national/409889/study-finds-28-percent-of-middle-aged-kiwis-have-tried-meth-and-reveals-the-drug-s-links-with-violence>

TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

'Animals live for man': China's appetite for wildlife likely to survive virus

Farah Master and Sophie Yu – Reuters: 16 February 2020

China has been cracking down on the use of wildlife by those breaking the temporary ban on catching, selling or eating wild animals. While this is good news, it is unlikely this type of ban will last or curtail the Chinese appetite for wildlife, despite the links to the coronavirus and other potential diseases.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-china-health-wildlife/animals-live-for-man-chinas-appetite-for-wildlife-likely-to-survive-virus-idUSKBN20AORK>

New strategy needed to curb 'jaw-dropping' wildlife trafficking in southeast

Asia: Report

Down To Earth: 20 February 2020

A newly released report evaluating current patterns in the trade of illegal wildlife in Southeast Asia has called for a new game plan to combat the problem. The study undertaken by the nongovernmental organization TRAFFIC analyzed thousands of successful seizures across 10 countries in Southeast Asia focusing on some of the most traded groups of terrestrial animals.

<https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/wildlife-biodiversity/new-strategy-needed-to-curb-jaw-dropping-wildlife-trafficking-in-southeast-asia-report-69379>

For more on this theme:

IFAW steps up efforts to combat wildlife trafficking in Kenya

<https://www.newsghana.com.gh/ifaw-steps-up-efforts-to-combat-wildlife-trafficking-in-kenya/>

Exposé: How illegal rosewood logging robs Ghana in multiple ways

<https://www.africanews.com/2020/02/11/expose-how-illegal-rosewood-logging-robs-ghana-in-multiple-ways/>

Study Reveals Why Poachers Kill Wildlife - And It Is Not Always Poverty

<https://www.worldatlas.com/news/study-reveals-why-poachers-kill-wildlife-and-it-is-not-always-poverty.html>

Uganda: New Task Force to Fight Wildlife Crime

<https://allafrica.com/stories/202002130502.html>

Botswana auctions permits to hunt elephants to ease human-wildlife conflict

<https://www.nasdaq.com/articles/botswana-auctions-permits-to-hunt-elephants-to-ease-human-wildlife-conflict-2020-02-07>

Satellite Images Show Evolution of Illegal Gold Mining in Peru

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/brief/satellite-images-gold-mining-peru/>

UK Government Plans to Lead Global Coalition Against Illegal Logging and Deforestation

<https://www.ecowatch.com/illegal-logging-deforestation-uk-coalition-2645140058.html>

Here's how blockchain could fight illegal fishing and help tuna stocks recover

<https://europeansting.com/2020/02/13/heres-how-blockchain-could-fight-illegal-fishing-and-help-tuna-stocks-recover/>

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND IRREGULAR MIGRATION

Slavery is not a crime in almost half the countries of the world – new research

Katarina Schwarz, Jean Allain and Andrea Nicholson – The Conversation: 13 February 2020

Though it is commonly thought that slavery is illegal everywhere, the reality is that almost half of all countries in the world have yet to make it a crime to enslave another human.

<https://theconversation.com/slavery-is-not-a-crime-in-almost-half-the-countries-of-the-world-new-research-115596>

Zimbabwe's Thin Line between Child Smuggling and Child Trafficking

Michelle Chifamba – Inter Press Service: February 2020

While there are numerous instances of child smuggling and trafficking across Zimbabwe's porous borders, these cases remain unknown and unreported because of the nature of the crime.

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2020/02/zimbabwes-thin-line-child-smuggling-child-trafficking/>

For more on this theme:

UNICEF Migration flows in Latin America and the Caribbean Situation Report No. 9 | January - December 2019

<https://reliefweb.int/report/colombia/unicef-migration-flows-latin-america-and-caribbean-situation-report-no-9-january>

Shifting the narrative on African migration: The numbers, the root causes, the alternatives – get them right! (Policy Note 2020:1)

<https://reliefweb.int/report/world/shifting-narrative-african-migration-numbers-root-causes-alternatives-get-them-right>

Sweden Has A Problem Sending Asylum Seekers Back

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/freylindsay/2020/02/11/sweden-has-a-problem-sending-asylum-seekers-back/#6bdb1a231d36>

“Free” Trade and Modern Slavery

<https://www.globaltrademag.com/free-trade-and-modern-slavery/>

‘Sudan government must do more to combat human trafficking’

<https://www.dabangasudan.org/en/all-news/article/sudan-government-must-do-more-to-combat-human-trafficking>

The 6,000-mile journey: How scores of Vietnamese migrants are smuggled or trafficked into the UK each year

<https://www.ksro.com/2020/02/09/the-6000-mile-journey-how-scores-of-vietnamese-migrants-are-smuggled-or-trafficked-into-the-uk-each-year/>

Modern slavery a national security issue says new study

<https://www.miragenews.com/modern-slavery-a-national-security-issue-says-new-study/>

Exclusive: Airbnb expands pledge to fight human trafficking amid hospitality industry struggles

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/travel/hotels/2020/02/20/airbnb-human-trafficking-polaris-partnership-amid-industry-lawsuits/4806104002/>

SMUGGLING AND COUNTERFEITING

Iran's November Gas Price Hike Fails to Ease Fuel Smuggling to Pakistan

Michael Lipin, Mehdi Jedinia, Naseer Ahmad Kakar and Niala Mohammad – Voice of America: 15 February 2020

Despite hopes among Iran's leadership that raising gas prices would ease fuel smuggling into neighboring countries, evidence shows the move had little to no effect and enraged the domestic population.

<https://www.voanews.com/middle-east/voa-news-iran/irans-november-gas-price-hike-fails-ease-fuel-smuggling-pakistan>

For more on this theme:

Egypt grapples with smuggling of artifacts

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/1624881/middle-east>

Cardboard trafficking gang busted by police in Madrid

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-51420503>

Govt battle vs oil smuggling gets boost from private sector

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2020/02/10/govt-battle-vs-oil-smuggling-gets-boost-from-private-sector/>

UN Experts Urge Measures to Control Arms Smuggling to Yemen

<https://aawsat.com/english/home/article/2125986/un-experts-urge-measures-control-arms-smuggling-yemen>

Gibraltar signs information sharing deal to fight tobacco smuggling

<https://www.theolivepress.es/spain-news/2020/02/14/gibraltar-signs-information-sharing-deal-to-fight-tobacco-smuggling/>

From Bootleggers To Blockchain: Technology In The Ethical Supply Chain

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/sap/2020/02/19/from-bootleggers-to-blockchain-technology-in-the-ethical-supply-chain/#1b3e25e01cbd>

PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

INTERNET GOVERNANCE

Where is the future of internet governance?

Matt Gillow – British Foreign Policy Group: 20 February 2020

What's next for the internet and internet governance?

<https://bfgp.co.uk/2020/02/where-is-the-future-of-internet-governance/>

For more on this theme:

(Global) In an Internet vacuum, private securities companies prosper in the 'new wild west'

<https://phys.org/news/2020-02-internet-vacuum-private-companies-prosper.html>

(Bangladesh) Bangla domain criminally neglected

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bangla-domain-criminally-neglected-1870915>

(Global) Troubling Efforts to Distort and Undermine the Multistakeholder Process

http://www.circleid.com/posts/20200218_troubling_efforts_to_distort_undermine_multistakeholder_process/

CYBER STATECRAFT DEVELOPMENT

U.S. joins others in accusing Russia's GRU of cyber attack on Republic of Georgia

Dan Lamothe – The Washington Post: 20 February 2020

The cyber attack four months ago in the former Soviet republic of Georgia was sudden, brazen and powerful, hitting the president's official website, the courts, businesses and the country's main broadcaster. Last week, the United States, together with Britain, Australia and other allies, joined the Georgian government in blaming the October 2019 attack on Russia's military intelligence agency, the GRU, whose cyber espionage unit has carried out many such strikes in the past.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/2020/02/20/us-joins-others-accusing-russia-cyber-attack-republic-georgia/>

For more on this theme:

(North Korea) How North Korea Revolutionized the Internet as a Tool for Rogue Regimes

<https://www.recordedfuture.com/north-korea-internet-tool/>

(Hamis, Palestinian Territories) Hamas-linked hackers exploit current events to spy on rival Palestinian officials, researchers say

<https://www.cyberscoop.com/hamas-gaza-cybergang-cyberreason/>

(Australia) Cyber resilience key to securing Australia's economic future

<https://www.defenceconnect.com.au/intel-cyber/5605-cyber-resilience-key-to-securing-australia-s-economic-future>

CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING

How internet access is improving in Nigeria

Mary-Ann Russon – BBC: 20 February 2020

Over the past decade, internet access has improved dramatically across Africa, particularly in Nigeria.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/business-51377955>

For more on this theme:

(Europe) Europe sets out plan to boost data reuse and regulate 'high risk' AIs

<https://techcrunch.com/2020/02/19/europe-sets-out-plan-to-boost-data-reuse-and-regulate-high-risk-ais/>

(Global) Freedom Online Conference: from digital inclusion to digital equality?

<https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/medialse/2020/02/20/freedom-online-conference-from-digital-inclusion-to-digital-equality/>

(Africa) Blockchain technology expected to tackle Africa's challenges across industries

<https://nairametrics.com/2020/02/21/blockchain-technology-expected-to-tackle-africas-challenges-across-multiple-industries/>

THREATS, ATTACKS AND VULNERABILITIES

Russia, China and North Korea will pose biggest cyber threats to Tokyo

Olympics: report

Maggie Miller – The Hill: 19 February 2020

A report from the Cyber Threat Alliance concluded that Russia, China and North Korea pose the biggest cyber threats to the 2020 Tokyo Summer Olympics.

<https://thehill.com/policy/cybersecurity/483733-russia-china-and-north-korea-will-pose-biggest-cyber-threats-to-tokyo>

Full Report:

2020 Summer Olympics Threat Assessment – Tokyo 2020

https://www.cyberthreatalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/CTA-2020-Olympics-Threat-Assessment-Report_Final.pdf

For more on this theme:

(U.S.) Defense Department agency suffers data breach: report

<https://thehill.com/policy/cybersecurity/483853-defense-department-agency-suffers-potential-data-breach>

(China, Global) Chinese hackers have breached online betting and gambling sites

<https://www.zdnet.com/article/chinese-hackers-have-breached-online-betting-and-gambling-sites/>

(Iran, Global) Iranian hackers have been hacking VPN servers to plant backdoors in companies around the world

<https://www.zdnet.com/article/iranian-hackers-have-been-hacking-vpn-servers-to-plant-backdoors-in-companies-around-the-world/?mid=1%23cid=9526706>

CYBER PROTECTION OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

US natural gas operator shuts down for 2 days after being infected by ransomware

Dan Goodin – Ars Technica: 18 February 2020

A U.S.-based natural gas facility was attacked by a ransomware infection that prevented personnel from receiving critical real-time operational data from control and communication equipment.

<https://arstechnica.com/information-technology/2020/02/ransomware-infection-shuts-down-us-natural-gas-operator-for-2-days/>

For more on this theme:

(Global) U.S. election officials should learn from other countries' experiences with election security

https://www.salon.com/2020/02/12/us-election-officials-should-learn-from-other-countries-experiences-with-election-security_partner/

(Russia, Global) Russian intelligence agents went to Ireland to inspect undersea cables, reigniting fears they could cut them and take entire countries offline

<https://www.msn.com/en-au/news/other/russian-intelligence-agents-went-to-ireland-to-inspect-undersea-cables-reigniting-fears-they-could-cut-them-and-take-entire-countries-offline/ar-BB105fBr>

(Global) Prioritizing Actions for Managing Cybersecurity Risks

<https://www.stimson.org/2020/prioritizing-actions-for-managing-cybersecurity-risks/>

COMBATING TERRORISM AND CYBER CRIME

At Facebook, One Million Takedowns Per Day is Evidence of Failure, Not Success

Robert K. Knake – Council on Foreign Relations: 20 February 2020

According to Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg, the company removes more than 1 million fake accounts daily. The author argues this should not be celebrated; it illustrates how big the problem really is.

<https://www.cfr.org/blog/facebook-one-million-takedowns-day-evidence-failure-not-success>

For more on this theme:

(Global) Affordable phishing services help make email fraud the most profitable form of cybercrime

<https://www.cyberscoop.com/phishing-services-affordable-cybercrime-digital-shadows/>

(Europe) European countries most at risk of cyber crime revealed

<https://www.information-age.com/european-countries-most-risk-cyber-crime-revealed-123487813/>

(Global) Paranoia around Coronavirus is Fueling Cyber Crime

<https://www.dqindia.com/paranoia-around-coronavirus-fueling-cyber-crime/>

TRAINING AND EXERCISES

Mapping the Known Unknowns of Cybersecurity Education

*Trey Herr, Arthur P.B. Laudrain and Max Smeets – Council on Foreign Relations:
3 February 2020*

Many universities are starting to include cyber security as a course of study. While there is a high degree of variation between the selected readings of the syllabi of cyber security courses across different universities, there is some thematic overlap. By reviewing the syllabi of university cyber security courses, the authors seek to systematically evaluate this nascent field and advance its maturity.

<https://www.cfr.org/blog/mapping-known-unknowns-cybersecurity-education>

For more on this theme:

(Scotland) Cyber-security training scheme for Scottish veterans launched

<https://www.scmagazineuk.com/cyber-security-training-scheme-scottish-veterans-launched/article/1674352>

(NATO) Estonia holds NATO Parliamentary Assembly cyber crisis exercise

<https://news.err.ee/1037005/estonia-holds-nato-parliamentary-assembly-cyber-crisis-exercise>

MASS SURVEILLANCE AND INTELLIGENCE GATHERING

Between big data and big brother

Himal Southasian: 18 February 2020

Anita Gurumurthy, who works on internet governance, surveillance and the political economy of data, talks about the states' and corporations' perennial hunger for data, new forms of labor control, and possibilities of a Southern framework for data sovereignty.

<https://www.himalmag.com/himal-interviews-between-big-data-and-big-brother-2020/>

For more on this theme:

(Global) Five minutes with Katharina Borchert: “Online advertising has created a surveillance economy”

<https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/euoppblog/2020/02/14/five-minutes-with-katharina-borchert-online-advertising-has-created-a-surveillance-economy/>

(India) Watch Universities, Infiltrate Whatsapp Groups: Top Police Officials Told To Keep An Eye On Student Activities

<https://thelogicalindian.com/news/dgp-meet-pm-modi-19671>

(China) Kung Flu kills Chinese Big Brother

<https://www.fudzilla.com/news/50259-kung-flu-kills-chinese-big-brother>

(Global) A World Without Privacy Will Revive the Masquerade

<https://www.theatlantic.com/technology/archive/2020/02/we-may-have-no-privacy-things-can-always-get-worse/606250/>

PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

ISIS AND FOREIGN FIGHTERS

How ISIS Used Make-Shift Armored Cars to Carry out Suicide Bombings

Sebastien Roblin – The National Interest: 18 February 2020

Insurgents and weak forces without funding often improvise weapons that can maximize damage. Those weapons include suicide bombers and armored vehicles.

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/how-isis-used-make-shift-armored-cars-carry-out-suicide-bombings-124291>

The Hunt: ISIS still has significant presence on the internet

Rick Massimo – WTOP: 19 February 2020

Organizations that monitor terrorist activity on the internet say they still find lots of dangerous propaganda, more than two years after ISIS was allegedly defeated.

<https://wtop.com/j-j-green-national/2020/02/the-hunt-isis-still-has-significant-presence-on-the-internet/>

For more on this theme:

UN: Islamic State Recruitment of Southeast Asians Shifts to Afghanistan

<https://www.benarnews.org/english/news/indonesian/IS-recruitment-02072020180151.html>

The resurgence of Islamic State in Middle East

<https://www.newdelhitimes.com/the-resurgence-of-islamic-state-in-middle-east/>

Militants blow up Israel-Egypt gas pipeline

<https://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2020/02/egypt-israel-gas-pipeline-sinai-islamic-state-attack.html>

Tracking Abu Walid al-Sahraoui, West Africa's most wanted jihadist

<https://www.theafricareport.com/23345/tracking-abu-walid-al-sahrawi-west-africas-most-wanted-jihadist/>

If Shamima Begum, the ISIS Bride, Is No Longer British, What Does Citizenship Mean?

<https://www.newyorker.com/news/letter-from-the-uk/if-shamima-begum-the-isis-bride-is-no-longer-british-what-does-citizenship-mean>

Why Indonesia can't leave ISIS behind

<https://asiatimes.com/2020/02/why-indonesia-cant-leave-isis-behind/>

ISIS has DOUBLE the number of soldiers across Iraq and Syria than it did when it swept through the region in 2014, Kurdish leader warns

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-8015579/ISIS-fighters-Iraq-Syria-did-2014.html>

Families of Iraqi ISIS fighters to be moved to Nineveh from Syria's Al-Hol: official

<https://www.rudaw.net/english/middleeast/iraq/150220202>

Shamima Begum claims ISIS leader al-Baghdadi wasn't 'radical enough' for some jihadis

<https://www.express.co.uk/news/world/1244724/ISIS-news-shamima-begum-latest-terrorist-jihadi-bride-syria-abc-news>

TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

Tehran-backed Hezbollah steps in to guide Iraqi militias in Soleimani's wake

Reuters: 11 February 2020

After the death of Iranian Maj. Gen. Qassem Soleimani, Hezbollah stepped in to conduct meetings and act in his stead to guide the Iraqi militias.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-iran-iraq-hezbollah-insight/tehran-backed-hezbollah-steps-in-to-guide-iraqi-militias-in-soleimanis-wake-idUSKBN20520Y>

Where do Sahel terrorists get their heavy weapons?

Hassane Koné – Institute for Security Studies: 12 February 2020

New research by the Institute for Security Studies indicates that, with arms flows from Libya on the decline, terrorist groups in the Sahel are raiding military barracks and poorly controlled stockpiles for heavy weaponry.

<https://issafrica.org/iss-today/where-do-sahel-terrorists-get-their-heavy-weapons>

For more on this theme:

Killing of Terrorist Leader in Yemen Is Latest Blow to Qaeda Affiliate

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/02/10/us/politics/al-qaeda-yemen-qassim-al-rimi.html>

Taliban fighters train at Mullah Mansoor 'Military Camp'

<https://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2020/02/taliban-fighters-train-at-mullah-mansoor-military-camp.php>

U.S., Taliban Negotiate 7-Day Proposal for Reduction in Violence

<https://smallwarsjournal.com/blog/us-taliban-negotiate-7-day-proposal-reduction-violence>

The Caravan: Abdallah Azzam and the Rise of Global Jihad

<https://www.alaraby.co.uk/english/society/2020/2/12/the-caravan-azzam-and-the-rise-of-global-jihad>

Hamas puts the ball in Israel's court

<https://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2020/02/israel-egypt-palestinians-hamas-gaza-strip-yahya-sinwar.html>

Fatah, Hamas Agree to Five-way Meeting of Factions

<https://aawsat.com/english/home/article/2122796/fatah-hamas-agree-five-way-meeting-factions>

Should Nigeria have released Boko Haram suspects?

<https://theconversation.com/should-nigeria-have-released-boko-haram-suspects-131987>

Al-shabab intensifies attacks on Somalia government installations

<https://www.radiodalsan.com/en/2020/02/20/al-shabab-intensifies-attacks-on-somalia-government-installations/>

Kenya Struggles Against Al-Shabaab Terrorists in Boni Forest

<https://www.voanews.com/episode/kenya-struggles-against-al-shabaab-terrorists-boni-forest-4192411>

After the US-Taliban deal, what might negotiations between the Taliban and Afghan side look like?

<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/order-from-chaos/2020/02/19/after-the-us-taliban-deal-what-might-negotiations-between-the-taliban-and-afghan-side-look-like/>

RADICALIZATION AND MESSAGING

Countering Violent Extremism After Mindanao's 'New Dawn'

Michael Henry Yusingco – The Diplomat: 15 February 2020

A coherent approach to violent extremism is needed in the new Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in the southern Philippines.

<https://thediplomat.com/2020/02/countering-violent-extremism-after-mindanaos-new-dawn/>

Meet the Physicist Predicting When Online Hate Will Turn to Real-World Violence

Steve Nadis – Discover: 10 February 2020

The same principles that govern jostling molecules might also apply to groups of humans, according to one physicist. After years of studying groups of extremists and would-be terrorists, British physicist Neil Johnson has concluded that watching the groups, rather than the individuals, offers the best gauge of when violence is likely to occur.

<https://www.discovermagazine.com/the-sciences/meet-the-physicist-predicting-when-online-hate-will-turn-to-real-world>

For more on this theme:

Somalia: Child Soldiers Rescued of Al Shabaab

<https://menafn.com/1099682056/Somalia-Child-Soldiers-Rescued-of-Al-Shabaab>

What responsibility do terrorists' families bear in children's radicalisation?

<https://the arabweekly.com/what-responsibility-do-terrorists-families-bear-childrens-radicalisation>

Straw hats and music lessons: Inside the Syrian camp trying to deradicalise Shamima Begum

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/02/17/straw-hats-music-lessons-inside-the-syrian-camps-trying-deradicalise/>

Mental Health Treatment Paramount for Children of Foreign Terrorist Fighters

<https://jakartaglobe.id/news/mental-health-treatment-paramount-for-children-of-foreign-terrorist-fighters>

Getting to the roots of radicalization

<https://www.dhakatribune.com/opinion/editorial/2020/02/19/getting-to-the-roots-of-radicalization>

Youth Radicalization in Somalia-Policy Brief

<https://menafn.com/1099718784/Youth-Radicalization-in-Somalia-Policy-Brief>

One year after Pulwama attack, radicalization on in full swing

<https://www.livemint.com/politics/news/one-year-after-pulwama-attack-radicalization-on-in-full-swing-11581668224502.html>

Police: 82% of terrorist radicalization happens through social media

<https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/dhaka/2020/02/17/police-82-of-terrorist-radicalization-happens-through-social-media>

Senate To Establish Commission For De-radicalization, Insurgents Integration

<https://leadership.ng/2020/02/20/senate-to-establish-commission-for-de-radicalization-insurgents-integration/>

WHITE NATIONALIST TERRORISM

This Researcher Juggled Five Different Identities to Go Undercover With Far-Right and Islamist Extremists. Here's What She Found

Madeline Roache – Time: 18 February 2020

Julia Ebner went undercover with white nationalist groups. She speaks to *Time* magazine about her new book, *Going Dark: The Secret Social Lives of Extremists*.

<https://time.com/5785779/extremist-networks-julia-ebner/>

For more on this theme:

We Once Fought Jihadists. Now We Battle White Supremacists.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/02/11/opinion/politics/white-supremacist-terrorism.html>

What former skinheads say about why they joined hate groups and why they left

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/former-skinheads-research-concordia-1.5459981>

White Nationalist Propaganda Has Doubled Nationwide Over The Last Year: Report

<https://www.newsweek.com/white-nationalism-campus-anti-defamation-league-1487037>

Germany and right-wing extremism: The new dimension of terror

<https://www.dw.com/en/germany-and-right-wing-extremism-the-new-dimension-of-terror/a-52442936>

Hanau Shootings Highlight Rise of Far-Right Extremism in Germany

<https://www.voanews.com/extremism-watch/hanau-shootings-highlight-rise-far-right-extremism-germany>

IRREGULAR WARFARE: PROXY FORCES

Will Rising U.S.-Iran Tensions Spark Afghan Proxy War?

Belquis Ahmadi, Barmak Pazhwak and Michael V. Phelan – Small Wars Journal: February 2020

Rising tensions between the United States and Iran – illustrated and exacerbated by the January 3 assassination of Iranian Gen. Qassem Soleimani – are rippling beyond the Middle East. Now, American officials are voicing growing concern about Iranian activities in Afghanistan.

<https://smallwarsjournal.com/jrnl/art/will-rising-us-iran-tensions-spark-afghan-proxy-war>

For more on this theme:

US intercepts Iranian arms shipment to Yemen's Houthis

<https://theArabweekly.com/us-intercepts-iranian-arms-shipment-yemens-houthis>

What China's coercion at sea means for India

<https://www.orfonline.org/research/what-chinas-coercion-at-sea-means-for-india-61152/>

Iran-backed group launches attack near small garrison in Syria housing American special operators

<https://www.militarytimes.com/flashpoints/2020/02/16/iran-backed-group-launches-attack-near-small-garrison-in-syria-housing-american-special-operators/>

Threat of War With Iran Low, Though Proxy Attacks are Back

<https://www.airforcemag.com/threat-of-war-with-iran-low-though-proxy-attacks-are-back/>

IRREGULAR WARFARE: SOFT POWER

China tests its soft power with neighbours over coronavirus outbreak

Patpicha Tanakasempipat and Keith Zhai – Reuters: 20 February 2020

China called for a special meeting of Southeast Asian nations, looking to exert pressure and influence to gain support from ASEAN nations as the West criticizes China's handling of the coronavirus epidemic.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-china-health-asean/china-tests-its-soft-power-in-southeast-asia-amid-coronavirus-outbreak-idUSKBN20E0TM?il=0>

For more on this theme:

Projecting Soft Power Through the State Partnership Program

<https://smallwarsjournal.com/jrnl/art/projecting-soft-power-through-state-partnership-program>

History and the Cult of Victory: The Kremlin's Revisionist Soft Power

<https://bylinetimes.com/2020/02/20/history-and-the-cult-of-victory-the-kremlins-revisionist-soft-power/>

Thai Princess Mahachakri Sirindhorn is India's Popular Soft Power Ambassador. Here is why.

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/blogs/the-vantage-viewpoint/thai-princess-mahachakri-sirindhorn-is-indias-popular-soft-power-ambassador-here-is-why/>

The real Tokyo Olympics: Esports and the future of Japanese soft power

<https://www.japantimes.co.jp/opinion/2020/02/15/commentary/japan-commentary/real-tokyo-olympics-esports-future-japanese-soft-power/>

China's Peculiar Soft Power Diplomacy

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/558116/chinas-peculiar-soft-power-diplomacy/>

China has a major soft power problem in Asia

<https://www.businesstimes.com.sg/opinion/thinkchina/china-has-a-major-soft-power-problem-in-asia>