

THE MARSHALL CENTER

# transnational weekly



A CURRENT AWARENESS SERVICE FROM THE MARSHALL CENTER

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## COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

### CORRUPTION

#### **Ukraine Passes a Critical Anticorruption Bill**

*Andrew E. Kramer – The New York Times: 13 May 2020*

Ukraine's Parliament recently passed a bill to stop insiders from siphoning off international aid money. It is an important step, but more pervasive forms of graft persist.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/05/13/world/europe/ukraine-zelensky-corruption-kolomoisky.html>

#### **Virus response opens way for corruption: EU chief prosecutor**

*Luke Baker – Reuters: 12 May 2020*

Large amounts of European money being promised to aid those affected by the coronavirus pandemic are likely to lead to a surge in fraud and corruption in the very same place the European Union is trying to help.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-eu-corruption-inte/virus-response-opens-way-for-corruption-eu-chief-prosecutor-idUSKBN2201SG>

*For more on this theme:*

#### **How to manage corruption risk in African infrastructure projects**

<https://www.theafricareport.com/26650/how-to-manage-corruption-risk-in-african-infrastructure-projects/>

#### **How COVID-19 Is Affecting International Corruption And Financial Crime**

<https://www.jdsupra.com/legalnews/how-covid-19-is-affecting-international-68721/>

#### **Corruption watchdog warns it can't investigate drug and bribe allegations at Australia's borders**

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2020/may/08/corruption-watchdog-warns-it-cant-investigate-drug-and-bribe-allegations-at-australias-borders>

#### **After the Virus, Fighting Corruption Tops Slovak To-Do List**

<https://balkaninsight.com/2020/05/07/after-the-virus-fighting-corruption-tops-slovak-to-do-list/>

#### **Corruption, political blockages, threaten international efforts to help Bosnia and Herzegovina weather coronavirus**

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/05/1063432>

#### **Iran faces further allegations of corruption in coronavirus fallout**

<https://www.foxnews.com/world/iran-corruption-coronavirus-fallout>

#### **COVID-19: Bolstering anti-corruption compliance during a crisis**

<https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=9aee78b6-2d69-486a-adb7-475fc4d7dd9c>

#### **Contagion of Chinese Corruption Will Threaten Post-pandemic Recovery in Developing World**

<https://www.newsweek.com/contagion-chinese-corruption-will-threaten-post-pandemic-recovery-developing-world-opinion-1502404>

## DRUG TRAFFICKING

### **Asia-Pacific Drug Trade Thrives Amid the COVID-19 Pandemic**

*Tom Allard and Panu Wongcha-um – Reuters: 14 May 2020*

“It is hard to imagine that organized crime have again managed to expand the drug market, but they have,” said Jeremy Douglas, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime representative for Southeast Asia and the Pacific. “While the world has shifted its attention to the COVID-19 pandemic, all indications are that production and trafficking of synthetic drugs and chemicals continue at record levels in the region.”

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-asia-crime-drugs/asia-pacific-drug-trade-thrives-amid-the-covid-19-pandemic-idUSKBN22R0EO>

Full report:

### **COVID-19 and the drug supply chain: from production and trafficking to use**

<https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/covid/Covid-19-and-drug-supply-chain-Mai2020.pdf>

### **Mauritius Battles a Growing Synthetic Drugs Problem**

*Richard Chelin – Institute for Security Studies: 13 May 2020*

A progressive public health stance reduced cannabis and heroin use in Mauritius, but those same laws aren't keeping the population away from synthetic drugs.

<https://issafrica.org/iss-today/mauritius-battles-a-growing-synthetic-drugs-problem>

*For more on this theme:*

### **El Chapo is no Robin Hood – but social bandit myth still endures in Latin America**

<https://theconversation.com/el-chapo-is-no-robin-hood-but-social-bandit-myth-still-endures-in-latin-america-137207>

### **Drug Trade Struggling at the Border During COVID-19 Pandemic**

<https://securitytoday.com/articles/2020/05/04/drug-trade-struggling-at-the-border.aspx>

### **Trump Authorizes Activation of More Troops to Fight Drug Trafficking**

<https://www.military.com/daily-news/2020/05/01/trump-authorizes-activation-more-troops-fight-drug-trafficking.html>

### **Yet More Accusations Against Honduras President, But Will They Matter?**

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/analysis/accusations-honduras-president/>

### **'They're Fearless': The Women Battling to Free Myanmar From Meth**

<https://pulitzercenter.org/reporting/theyre-fearless-women-battling-free-myanmar-meth-0>

### **Are Mozambique's insurgents closing in on illicit trafficking profits?**

<https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2020-05-08-are-mozambiques-insurgents-closing-in-on-illicit-trafficking-profits/>

### **Behind the Scenes of Colombia's War on Drug Trafficking**

<https://inpublicsafety.com/2020/05/behind-the-scenes-of-colombias-war-on-drug-trafficking/>

### **Coronavirus upends the drug trade, UN says – but traffickers are adapting. Here's how**

<https://www.miamiherald.com/news/coronavirus/article242616766.html>

## TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

### **Wildlife trade in Mexico, conservation, and pandemics**

*Vanda Felbab-Brown – Brookings: 11 May 2020*

To prevent another zoonotic pandemic, everyone needs to step up around the world. Unfortunately, this is not a priority in Mexico, where action is needed.

<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/order-from-chaos/2020/05/11/wildlife-trade-in-mexico-conservation-and-pandemics/>

### **To prevent the next pandemic, it's the legal wildlife trade we should worry about**

*Jonathan Kolby – National Geographic: 7 May 2020*

The more that people and wild animals interact, either due to illegal activities, urbanization or live animal markets and the illegal wildlife trade, the more likely it is that diseases will move from hosts to vectors to human beings.

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/2020/05/to-prevent-next-pandemic-focus-on-legal-wildlife-trade/>

*For more on this theme:*

### **Under the cover of lockdown, illegal logging surges in Tunisia**

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-tunisia-logging-fe/under-the-cover-of-lockdown-illegal-logging-surges-in-tunisia-idUSKBN22D4H5>

### **VOA Films Illegal Logging Inside Mexico Monarch Butterfly Sanctuary**

<https://www.voanews.com/americas/voa-films-illegal-logging-inside-mexico-monarch-butterfly-sanctuary>

### **Exclusive: Fears rise for illegal South African miners hiding underground in virus lockdown**

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-safrica-exclusive/exclusive-fears-rise-for-illegal-south-african-miners-hiding-underground-in-virus-lockdown-idUSKBN22B1F9>

### **Covid-19: Lessons From the Yanomami**

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/27/opinion/yanomami-covid-brazil.html>

### **There are no winners in the illegal trade in wildlife**

<https://www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/story/there-are-no-winners-illegal-trade-wildlife>

### **Markets in Vietnam are Still Selling Wild Animals**

<https://www.onegreenplanet.org/natural-health/market-in-vietnam-still-selling-wild-animals/>

### **Coronavirus: A hunt for the 'missing link' host species**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-52529830>

### **Wildlife trafficking will resume after Covid-19 restrictions are removed as too much money is involved: Report**

<https://meaww.com/lockdowns-and-travel-bans-due-to-pandemic-have-slowed-wildlife-trafficking-but-only-temporarily>

### **Can tech-savvy tools take down illegal wildlife trafficking?**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/environment/artificial-intelligence-tech-wildlife-trafficking-endangered-species-a9494726.html>

## HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND IRREGULAR MIGRATION

### **Coronavirus may push more asylum seekers towards EU: agency**

*Gabriela Baczynska – Reuters: 12 May 2020*

The coronavirus lockdown has reduced the number of asylum seekers able to reach Europe, but the pandemic could trigger more arrivals in the future if it worsens turmoil in the Middle East and North Africa, the European Union asylum agency said.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-eu-migration/coronavirus-may-push-more-asylum-seekers-to-eu-agency-says-idUSKBN22018A>

*For more on this theme:*

### **Traffickers could profit when UK eases lockdown, anti-slavery chief warns**

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-britain-slavery-tr/traffickers-could-profit-when-uk-eases-lockdown-anti-slavery-chief-warns-idUSKBN22H0A4>

### **Tracking Modern Slavery in the Fishing Industry**

<https://www.hakaimagazine.com/news/tracking-modern-slavery-in-the-fishing-industry/>

### **Global Initiative: Corona Will Worsen Human Smuggling**

<https://www.occrp.org/en/daily/12246-global-initiative-corona-will-worsen-human-smuggling>

### **How has human smuggling changed under COVID-19?**

<https://africanarguments.org/2020/05/06/how-has-human-smuggling-changed-under-covid-19/>

### **Migrants not safe in Libya, expert warns**

<https://timesofmalta.com/articles/view/migrants-not-safe-in-libya-expert-warns.789617>

### **Orphaned, Abused, Exploited — Children Could be Hardest Hit by Pandemic**

<https://www.voanews.com/covid-19-pandemic/orphaned-abused-exploited-children-could-be-hardest-hit-pandemic>

### **How Africa can reduce COVID-19's impact on displaced persons**

<https://issafrica.org/iss-today/how-africa-can-reduce-covid-19s-impact-on-displaced-persons>

## PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

### INTERNET FREEDOM

#### **In Africa, government attempts to fight misinformation are also limiting freedom of expression**

*Ashwanee Budoo – Nieman Lab: 11 May 2020*

Even before the coronavirus pandemic, many African countries limited the freedom of expression of citizens and the media. The pandemic is now being used as an excuse to further limit these freedoms.

<https://www.niemanlab.org/2020/05/in-africa-government-attempts-to-fight-misinformation-are-also-limiting-freedom-of-expression/>

*For more on this theme:*

#### **(France) French parliament passes law requiring social media companies delete certain content within an hour**

[https://www.foxcarolina.com/french-parliament-passes-law-requiring-social-media-companies-delete-certain-content-within-an-hour/article\\_2dc7fd2e-4de7-5cd1-becb-16b88b63f81d.html](https://www.foxcarolina.com/french-parliament-passes-law-requiring-social-media-companies-delete-certain-content-within-an-hour/article_2dc7fd2e-4de7-5cd1-becb-16b88b63f81d.html)

#### **(China, Global) Is TikTok Safe? Concerns About Data, Privacy and Censorship Abound**

<https://www.insideedition.com/is-tiktok-safe-concerns-about-data-privacy-and-censorship-abound-59360>

#### **(China) China's Unleashing a Propaganda 'Wolfpack' on Twitter — Even Though Citizens Go to Jail for Tweeting**

[https://www.vice.com/en\\_us/article/v7ggvy/chinas-unleashing-a-propaganda-wolfpack-on-twitter-even-though-citizens-go-to-jail-for-tweeting](https://www.vice.com/en_us/article/v7ggvy/chinas-unleashing-a-propaganda-wolfpack-on-twitter-even-though-citizens-go-to-jail-for-tweeting)

### CYBER STATECRAFT

#### **FBI, DHS to go public with suspected North Korean hacking tools**

*Shannon Vavra – Cyberscoop: 12 May 2020*

The U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Department of Homeland Security are preparing to expose a North Korean government-backed hacking group known as the Hidden Cobra.

<https://www.cyberscoop.com/north-korea-hacking-hidden-cobra-dhs-fbi/>

*For more on this theme:*

#### **(Germany, Russia) Merkel blames Russia for 'outrageous' cyberattack on German parliament**

<https://www.politico.eu/article/merkel-blames-russia-for-outrageous-cyber-attack-on-german-parliament/>

#### **(China, Iran, Global) U.S. to Accuse China of Trying to Hack Vaccine Data, as Virus Redirects Cyberattacks**

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/05/10/us/politics/coronavirus-china-cyber-hacking.html>

#### **(Australia) Defence has imagined modern warfare and Australia is not prepared**

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-05-15/australia-unprepared-for-security-threats-warns-re-view/12248332>

## CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING

### **With half a billion active users, Indian internet is more rural, local, mobile-first than ever**

*Sohini Mitter – YourStory: 13 May 2020*

India now has more rural internet users than urban ones. Low-cost data packages and the government's digital push have made the internet more inclusive.

<https://yourstory.com/2020/05/half-billion-active-users-indian-internet-rural-local-mobile-first>

*For more on this theme:*

### **(U.S.) Where the next iteration of the Army's network capabilities is heading**

<https://www.c4isrnet.com/battlefield-tech/c2-comms/2020/05/07/where-the-next-iteration-of-the-armys-network-capabilities-is-heading/>

### **(U.S.) Air Force rolls out Advanced Battle Management System devices in COVID-19 fight**

<https://www.c4isrnet.com/air/2020/05/07/air-force-rolls-out-advanced-battle-management-system-devices-in-covid-19-fight/>

### **(Global) Internet Lessons from COVID19**

<https://www.medianama.com/2020/05/223-internet-lessons-from-covid19-by-vint-cerf/>

## CYBER CRIME AND TERRORISM

### **Cybercrime In India Surges Amidst Coronavirus Lockdown**

*Ronak D. Desai – Forbes: 14 May 2020*

Cyber crime in India has surged during the country's unprecedented coronavirus lockdown.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/ronakdesai/2020/05/14/cybercrime-in-india-surges-amidst-coronavirus-lockdown/#1d281500392e>

*For more on this theme:*

### **(Global) A hacker group is selling more than 73 million user records on the dark web**

<https://www.zdnet.com/article/a-hacker-group-is-selling-more-than-73-million-user-records-on-the-dark-web/?mid=1#cid=851687>

### **(Global) Hackers Target WHO by Posing as Think Tank, Broadcaster**

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-05-07/hackers-target-who-by-posing-as-think-tank-broadcaster>

### **(U.S., Global) Coronavirus Lessons to Help Fight Cybercrime**

<https://www.govtech.com/blogs/lohmann-on-cybersecurity/coronavirus-lessons-to-help-fight-cyber-crime.html>

## CYBER ATTACKS, THREATS AND VULNERABILITIES

### **New Ramsay malware can steal sensitive documents from air-gapped networks**

*Catalin Cimpanu – ZDNet: 13 May 2020*

The cyber security firm ESET has announced the discovery of a malware framework with advanced capabilities to collect Word, PDF, and ZIP files.

<https://www.zdnet.com/article/new-ramsay-malware-can-steal-sensitive-documents-from-air-gapped-networks/>

*For more on this theme:*

### **(U.S.) Healthcare giant Magellan Health hit by ransomware attack**

<https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/security/healthcare-giant-magellan-health-hit-by-ransomware-attack/>

### **(Global) How two researchers used an app store to demonstrate hacks on a factory**

<https://www.cyberscoop.com/trend-micro-factory-attacks-federico-maggi/>

### **(U.S., Global) 4,000 Android Apps Expose Millions Of Passwords, Phone Numbers And Messages**

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/daveywinder/2020/05/12/revealed-4000-android-apps-expose-millions-of-passwords-phone-numbers-and-messages/#8008d03438d2>

## CYBER PROTECTION OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

### **Cyber Attack On U.K. Electricity Market Confirmed: National Grid Investigates**

*Davey Winder – Forbes: 15 May 2020*

Exelon, an organization that is central to the balancing and settlement of the United Kingdom's electricity market, has been hit by a cyber attack that knocked out its internal emails as malware creeps closer to critical national infrastructure.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/daveywinder/2020/05/15/cyber-attack-on-uk-electricity-market-confirmed-national-grid-investigates/#364200d3712a>

*For more on this theme:*

### **(U.S.) Experts sound alarms about security as states eye online voting**

<https://thehill.com/policy/cybersecurity/497452-experts-sound-alarms-about-security-as-states-eye-online-voting>

### **(U.S., Global) DHS to advise telecom firms on preventing 5G cell tower attacks linked to coronavirus conspiracy theories**

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/dhs-to-advise-telecom-firms-on-preventing-5g-cell-tower-attacks-linked-to-coronavirus-conspiracy-theories/2020/05/13/6aa9eaa6-951f-11ea-82b4-c8db-161ff6e5\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/dhs-to-advise-telecom-firms-on-preventing-5g-cell-tower-attacks-linked-to-coronavirus-conspiracy-theories/2020/05/13/6aa9eaa6-951f-11ea-82b4-c8db-161ff6e5_story.html)

### **(Israel, Iran, Global) Foreign intelligence officials say attempted cyberattack on Israeli water utilities linked to Iran**

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/intelligence-officials-say-attempted-cyberattack-on-israeli-water-utilities-linked-to-iran/2020/05/08/f9ab0d78-9157-11ea-9e23-6914ee410a5f\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/intelligence-officials-say-attempted-cyberattack-on-israeli-water-utilities-linked-to-iran/2020/05/08/f9ab0d78-9157-11ea-9e23-6914ee410a5f_story.html)

## NOTEWORTHY PODCASTS

### **The U.S. campaign trail is actually quite secure.**

*The Cyberwire: 9 May 2020*

The focus of this podcast is the 2020 general election and the ability of foreign and domestic actors to hack the campaigns and/or spread misinformation.

<https://thecyberwire.com/podcasts/research-saturday/134/notes>

*For more on this theme:*

### **(Global) Ransomware attacks on big targets, clutch your laptops, no updates from this Android app and more**

<https://www.itworldcanada.com/article/cyber-security-today-ransomware-attacks-on-big-targets-clutch-your-laptops-no-updates-from-this-android-app-and-more/430694>

### **(Global) Every day you're a firefighter.**

<https://thecyberwire.com/podcasts/hacking-humans/98/notes>

### **(Global) The CyberWire Daily Podcast: Ep 1088**

<https://thecyberwire.com/podcasts/daily-podcast/1088/notes>

### **(U.S., Global) Critical Update: Teleworking Securely During the Pandemic**

<https://www.nextgov.com/podcasts/2020/05/critical-update-teleworking-securely-during-pandemic/165301/>

## MASS SURVEILLANCE AND INTELLIGENCE GATHERING

### **Chinese tech giant Tencent reportedly surveilled foreign users of WeChat to help censorship at home**

*Arjun Kharpal – CNBC: 8 May 2020*

Surveillance and censorship of social media and messaging platforms in China is commonplace. But Citizen Lab, a research center that is part of the University of Toronto, said in a report that “documents and images shared among non-China-registered accounts are subject to content surveillance and are used to build up the database WeChat uses to censor China-registered accounts.”

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/05/08/tencent-wechat-surveillance-help-censorship-in-china.html>

*For more on this theme:*

### **(Global) Covid-19 and the acceleration of state surveillance**

<https://www.lowyinstitute.org/the-interpreter/covid-19-and-rise-state-surveillance>

### **(India) Big privacy and data security concerns as India forces coronavirus tracing app on millions**

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/coronavirus-india-contact-tracing-app-privacy-data-security-concerns-aarogya-setu-forced-on-millions/>

## **PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)**

### **ISIS AND FOREIGN FIGHTERS**

#### **Is the threat from ISIS really more significant because of COVID-19?**

*Jason M. Blazakis – The Hill: 13 May 2020*

Can ISIS and al-Qaida realistically cash in on the COVID-19 crisis, or are their missives nothing more than empty threats?

<https://thehill.com/opinion/national-security/497261-is-the-threat-from-isis-really-more-significant-be-cause-of-covid-19>

#### **Islamic State believed behind crop fires in Iraq's disputed territories**

*Al-Monitor: 13 May 2020*

ISIS is once again setting agricultural fields ablaze in northeastern Iraq as the harvest season begins, devastating the livelihood of local farmers as it reminds Iraqis of the terror group's lingering threat.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2020/05/farm-fires-resume-iraq-disputed-territories-islam-ic-state.html>

*For more on this theme:*

#### **Generation Jihad Ep. 8 – The Islamic State's Foundational Texts**

<https://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2020/05/generation-jihad-ep-8-the-islamic-states-foundational-texts.php>

#### **Islamic State Africa – An Inevitability?**

<https://theowp.org/islamic-state-africa-an-inevitability/>

#### **The Power And The Devil In Social Media: Security Overview**

<https://www.eurasiareview.com/08052020-the-power-and-the-devil-in-social-media-security-overview/>

#### **Islamic State prison riot underscores fragile security in northeast Syria**

<https://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2020/05/islamic-state-syria-prison-riot-security-kurdish-ha-sakeh.html>

#### **The ground zero of jihadism in the Philippines**

<https://www.weeklyblitz.net/news/the-ground-zero-of-jihadism-in-the-philippines/>

#### **An Expert Explains: Why it is necessary to watch the emergence of ISIS in the region**

<https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/why-it-is-necessary-to-watch-the-emergence-of-isis-in-the-region-6399182/>

#### **U.S. says Islamic State conducted attack on Kabul hospital**

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-afghanistan-attacks-usa/us-says-islamic-state-conducted-attack-on-kabul-hospital-idUSKBN22Q3QU>

#### **Afghan Forces Capture Key Figures From Islamic State's South Asia Branch**

<https://www.rferl.org/a/afghan-forces-capture-key-figures-from-islamic-state-s-south-asia-branch/30606322.html>

## TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

### **Are Mozambique's insurgents closing in on illicit trafficking profits?**

*Global Initiative Against Transnational Organised Crime: 8 May 2020*

The illicit economy in northern Mozambique helped shape the conditions that led to the current insurgency in Cabo Delgado and may drive instability in the future. Criminal networks have become economically and politically entrenched in the region. Events in recent months raise important questions about whether the insurgents may be positioning themselves to reap greater profits from the many criminal enterprises of the region.

<https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2020-05-08-are-mozambiques-insurgents-closing-in-on-illicit-trafficking-profits/>

### **Militants increasing attacks on Burkina Faso mines**

*Sam Mednik – The Associated Press: 9 May 2020*

Al-Qaida and ISIS-linked groups are targeting small-scale mining operations that produce about \$400 million worth of the precious metal each year.

<https://apnews.com/338e69cbac13c7a241c8b39e97344aef>

*For more on this theme:*

### **The Untold Story of Boko Haram's Origins**

<http://hnn.us/article/175283>

### **Counter-Boko Haram Offensives in Chad, Niger, and Nigeria under the Specter of Coronavirus: Public Relations or Permanent Destruction?**

<https://jamestown.org/program/counter-boko-haram-offensives-in-chad-niger-and-nigeria-under-the-specter-of-coronavirus-public-relations-or-permanent-destruction/>

### **Aslam Farooqi: Head of Islamic State-Khorasan Arrested**

<https://jamestown.org/brief/aslam-farooqi-head-of-islamic-state-khorasan-arrested/>

### **Pompeo says Iran is attempting to 'foment terror' amid coronavirus outbreak**

<https://www.foxnews.com/politics/pompeo-says-iran-is-attempting-to-foment-terror-amid-coronavirus-outbreak>

### **Exclusive: U.S. considers returning Cuba to list of state sponsors of terrorism – source**

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-cuba-blacklist-exclusive/exclusive-us-considers-returning-cuba-to-list-of-state-sponsors-of-terrorism-source-idUSKBN22Q350>

### **After Lake Chad Offensive, April One of Deadliest Months in Boko Haram Conflict**

<https://www.cfr.org/blog/after-lake-chad-offensive-april-one-deadliest-months-boko-haram-conflict>

### **A Powerful Iran-Backed Militia Is Losing Influence in Iraq**

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2020/05/11/a-powerful-iran-backed-militia-is-losing-influence-in-iraq/>

### **Africa's Sahel becomes latest al-Qaeda-IS battleground**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-52614579>

### **Why do some terrorist organizations use suicide bombing while others do not?**

<https://gppreview.com/2020/05/11/terrorist-organizations-use-suicide-bombing-others-not/>

## RADICALIZATION AND MESSAGING

### **How Assad's Atrocities Became a Powerful Motivator for Terrorist Recruitment**

*Anne Speckhard and Molly Ellenberg – Homeland Security Today: 12 May 2020*

In the world's collective consciousness, the Bashar al-Assad regime and its atrocities during the Syrian conflicts pale in comparison to ISIS' brutal reign of terror. Indeed, ISIS became one of the largest, richest and most lethal and brutal terrorist organizations of all time. While ISIS is rated as the group responsible for the second-largest number of civilian casualties in Syria, its raw numbers are few compared to Assad's.

<https://www.hstoday.us/subject-matter-areas/counterterrorism/how-assads-atrocities-became-a-powerful-motivator-for-terrorist-recruitment/>

### **Terrorism and the Mass Media**

*Jessica White – Royal United Services Institute: May 2020*

Media coverage of terrorism amplifies its effects. The negative consequences of any such coverage can be mitigated by responsible and ethical reporting practices.

[https://rusi.org/sites/default/files/terrorism\\_and\\_the\\_mass\\_media\\_final\\_web\\_version.pdf](https://rusi.org/sites/default/files/terrorism_and_the_mass_media_final_web_version.pdf)

*For more on this theme:*

### **What Can Work (and What Has Not Worked) in Women-Centric P/CVE Initiatives: Assessing the Evidence Base for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism**

<https://rusi.org/publication/occasional-papers/what-can-work-and-what-has-not-worked-women-centric-pcve-initiatives>

### **Counter Terrorism Police in the UK Warn Young People Could Become Radicalised by Extremist Groups During Quarantine**

<https://www.euoweeklynews.com/2020/05/14/counter-terrorism-police-in-the-uk-warn-that-young-people-could-become-radicalised-by-extremist-groups-during-quarantine/>

### **How extremists are using Zoom and other tools to exploit this pandemic**

<https://www.thenational.ae/opinion/how-extremists-are-using-zoom-and-other-tools-to-exploit-this-pandemic-1.1019515>

### **Germany: Politicians worry about radicalization at anti-lockdown protests**

<https://www.dw.com/en/germany-politicians-worry-about-radicalization-at-anti-lockdown-protests/a-53388404>

## IRREGULAR WARFARE: SOFT POWER

### **Chinese Campaigns for Political Influence in Africa**

*Stimson: 8 May 2020*

Testimony before the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission revealed China's political influence in Africa spans political party training, media penetration, and the shaping of governance norms.

<https://www.stimson.org/2020/chinese-campaigns-for-political-influence-in-africa/>

Written testimony

[https://www.stimson.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Sun\\_Testimony.pdf](https://www.stimson.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Sun_Testimony.pdf)

### **Russia removes memorial to Katyn massacre in new attack on historical truth**

*Halya Coynash – The Ukraine Weekly: 15 May 2020*

Attempting to make a soft power push, clean up its historical image and whitewash atrocities, Russia removed plaques commemorating Polish officers executed by the Russian NKVD in 1940, while the Soviet Union was collaborating with Nazi Germany.

<http://www.ukrweekly.com/uwwp/russia-removes-memorial-to-katyn-massacre-in-new-attack-on-historical-truth/>

*For more on this theme:*

### **Traditional Chinese Medicine as Soft-Power Play**

<https://www.nationalreview.com/magazine/2020/06/01/traditional-chinese-medicine-as-soft-power-play/>

### **Coronavirus crisis sees China losing 'soft-power leverage'**

<https://www.dw.com/en/coronavirus-crisis-sees-china-losing-soft-power-leverage/a-53424071>

### **Egypt leverages 'soft power' through medical aid in pandemic**

<https://news.yahoo.com/egypt-leverages-soft-power-medical-aid-pandemic-034848525.html>

### **China, Venezuela And The Limits Of Pandemic Diplomacy**

<https://worldcrunch.com/coronavirus/china-venezuela-and-the-limits-of-pandemic-diplomacy>

## CONSEQUENCE MANAGEMENT

### CURRENT STATE OF THE CORONAVIRUS

#### **What Is the World Doing to Create a COVID-19 Vaccine?**

*Claire Felter – Council on Foreign Relations: 13 May 2020*

The race to find a vaccine for the new coronavirus is well underway. Governments and researchers are aiming to provide billions of people with immunity in 18 months or less, which would be unprecedented.

<https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/what-world-doing-create-covid-19-vaccine>

*For more on this theme:*

#### **Northeast China hit by coronavirus infections, Wuhan reports new case**

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-china/northeast-china-hit-by-coronavirus-infections-wuhan-reports-new-case-idUSKBN22M00V>

#### **Leaked Chinese Virus Database Covers 230 Cities, 640,000 Updates**

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2020/05/12/leaked-chinese-coronavirus-database-number-cases/>

#### **COVID-19 resurges in reopened countries; Wuhan sees first cluster in a month**

<https://arstechnica.com/science/2020/05/covid-19-resurges-in-reopened-countries-wuhan-sees-first-cluster-in-a-month/>

#### **Coronavirus: Russia now has second highest virus case total**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-52631045>

#### **Coronavirus: Putin eases Russian lockdown as cases rise**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-52620015>

#### **How Are Countries Reopening? Firsthand Reports From Around the World**

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2020/05/09/coronavirus-pandemic-reopening-economy-life-after-lockdown/>

#### **A Double Pandemic: Domestic Violence in the Age of COVID-19**

<https://www.cfr.org/in-brief/double-pandemic-domestic-violence-age-covid-19>

### CORONAVIRUS, NATIONAL SECURITY AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

#### **The future of global development: How the pandemic is upending development finance**

*fhi14 :360 May 2020*

In this episode of *A Deeper Look* podcast, Homi Kharas, interim vice president and director of the Global Economy and Development program at the Brookings Institute, discusses COVID-19's effects on the global financial system, changes in public and private resource mobilization and investment, and the need for new and modified financial instruments to respond to unprecedented challenges.

<https://degrees.fhi360.org/2020/05/the-future-of-global-development-how-the-pandemic-is-upending-development-finance/>

## CORONAVIRUS, NATIONAL SECURITY AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS — CONTINUED

### **Pentagon Task Force Turns to Data to Shape COVID-19 Response**

*Brandi Vincent – Nextgov: 12 May 2020*

The U.S. Defense Department's COVID-19 Task Force is using data analytics and advanced modeling to determine potential risks to the Defense Department and mission readiness.

<https://www.nextgov.com/analytics-data/2020/05/pentagon-task-force-turns-data-shape-covid-19-response/165345/>

*For more on this theme:*

### **Preventing Biological and Chemical Weapons Proliferation during COVID-19**

<https://www.stimson.org/2020/preventing-biological-and-chemical-weapons-proliferation-during-covid-19/>

### **Trump mobilizing U.S. military to deliver coronavirus vaccine**

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-usa-trump/trump-mobilizing-u-s-military-to-deliver-coronavirus-vaccine-idUSKBN22Q1Q2>

### **Securing Nuclear Facilities in a Time of COVID-19**

<https://www.stimson.org/2020/securing-nuclear-facilities-in-a-time-of-covid-19/>

### **The coronavirus has led to more authoritarianism for Turkey**

<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/order-from-chaos/2020/05/08/the-coronavirus-has-led-to-more-authoritarianism-for-turkey/>

### **Italy: China's Trojan Horse into Europe**

<https://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/15999/italy-china-trojan-horse>

### **Esper: Pentagon ready for any new wave of coronavirus**

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/esper-in-first-trip-since-march-defends-antivirus-efforts/2020/05/07/5ccca960-9019-11ea-9322-a29e75effc93\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/esper-in-first-trip-since-march-defends-antivirus-efforts/2020/05/07/5ccca960-9019-11ea-9322-a29e75effc93_story.html)

### **China put pressure on WHO to scale back coronavirus warning to stockpile supplies, CIA believes: report**

<https://www.foxnews.com/world/china-who-coronavirus-warning-stockpile-cia-report>

### **Will the Pandemic Weaken Russia's 'Deep State'—or Make It Stronger Still?**

<https://www.cfr.org/in-brief/will-pandemic-weaken-russias-deep-state-or-make-it-stronger-still>

### **The Humanitarian Response to COVID-19: Protecting the World's Vulnerable Populations**

<https://www.cfr.org/event/humanitarian-response-covid-19-protecting-worlds-vulnerable-populations>

### **Covid-19 exposes the need for a European constitution**

<https://www.lowyinstitute.org/the-interpreter/covid-19-exposes-need-european-constitution>

### **COVID-19 and Indian defence planning**

<https://www.orfonline.org/expert-speak/covid19-indian-defence-planning-66119/>

### **Putting women and girls' safety first in Africa's response to COVID-19**

<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/africa-in-focus/2020/05/08/putting-women-and-girls-safety-first-in-africas-response-to-covid-19/>

## CORONAVIRUS AND DISINFORMATION

### **'The Battle of Narratives': Coronavirus and the EU Infodemic**

Wendy He – *Royal United Services Institute*: 11 May 2020

In addressing the coronavirus pandemic, Josep Borrell, the European Union's high representative for foreign affairs and security policy, described how a "global battle of narratives" is taking place. Is the task force created by the EU to engage in this battle up to the task?

<https://rusi.org/commentary/-battle-narratives-coronavirus-and-eu-infodemic>

### **State Department: China Working With Russia to Spread Coronavirus Disinformation**

Paul D. Shinkman – *U.S. News & World Report*: 8 May 2020

The coronavirus fallout is hastening Beijing's shift toward covert, Russian-style tactics when it comes to spreading disinformation.

<https://www.usnews.com/news/world-report/articles/2020-05-08/state-department-china-working-with-russia-to-spread-coronavirus-disinformation-on-twitter>

*For more on this theme:*

### **What is 'Wow China,' the radio show sparking outrage on social media?**

<https://www.rappler.com/nation/260603-things-to-know-wow-china-radio-show>

### **Webinar Video – Russian Disinformation's Golden Moment: Challenges and Responses in the Covid Era**

<https://jamestown.org/event/webinar-video-russian-disinformations-golden-moment-challenges-and-responses-in-the-covid-era/>

### **How fake news is complicating India's war against COVID-19**

<https://www.orfonline.org/expert-speak/how-fake-news-complicating-india-war-against-covid19-66052/>

### **Facebook Fails to Staunch Coronavirus Misinformation**

<https://www.darkreading.com/threat-intelligence/facebook-fails-to-staunch-coronavirus-misinformation/d/d-id/1337821>

### **A New Study Explores The Spread Of Misinformation About Coronavirus On Facebook**

<https://www.npr.org/2020/05/13/855611088/a-new-study-explores-the-spread-of-misinformation-about-coronavirus-on-facebook>

### **How Covid-19 misinformation is still going viral**

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/05/08/tech/covid-viral-misinformation/index.html>

### **China's Disinformation Effort Targets Virus, Researcher Says**

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-05-12/china-s-disinformation-campaign-targets-virus-and-businessman>

### **Welcome to the New Era of Chinese Government Disinformation**

<https://thediplomat.com/2020/05/welcome-to-the-new-era-of-chinese-government-disinformation/>

### **Wary Europe welcomes China's help – but not its disinformation**

<https://www.csmonitor.com/World/Europe/2020/0511/Wary-Europe-welcomes-China-s-help-but-not-its-disinformation>