

THE MARSHALL CENTER

transnational weekly



A CURRENT AWARENESS SERVICE FROM THE MARSHALL CENTER

CONTENTS

COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

- Corruption
- Drug Trafficking
- Trafficking in Scarce or Protected Resources
- Human Trafficking and Irregular Migration
- Organized Crime

PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

- Internet Freedom
- Cyber Attacks, Threats and Vulnerabilities
- Cyber Crime
- Cyber Capacity Building
- Cyber Protection of Critical Infrastructure
- Public/Private Partnerships
- Mass Surveillance and Intelligence Gathering

PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

- ISIS and Foreign Fighters
- Terrorism Around the World
- Radicalization and Messaging
- Irregular Warfare: Soft Power
- Irregular Warfare: Proxy Forces
- Irregular Warfare: Disinformation and Malign Influence

CONSEQUENCE MANAGEMENT

- Coronavirus

The Marshall Center Transnational Weekly is a current awareness, information and policy tool for Marshall Center stakeholders to inform them about online publications by think tanks, research institutes and other organizations that deal with transnational subjects. Use of these brief excerpts and links does not reflect the views of or endorsement by the Marshall Center, the U.S. government or the German government. All original content in these compilations is copyrighted unless specifically noted otherwise. All rights to copyrighted items are reserved.

COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

Pressure mounts to disband Brazil's crack anti-corruption squad

Ricardo Brito – Reuters: 26 August 2020

Prosecutor General Augusto Aras will decide September 10 whether to renew a high-profile team of anti-corruption prosecutors for another year. Political pressure is growing to disband the team, despite its successes and continuing popular support.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-brazil-corruption-analysis/pressure-mounts-to-disband-brazils-crack-anti-corruption-squad-idUSKBN25M1CZ>

Corruption Threatens Beirut Revival

Lisa Schlein – Voice of America: 23 August 2020

A special report by the United Nations Development Program describes how deeply corruption has penetrated Lebanese society. Arkan El Seblani, the chief of the program's Anti-Corruption and Integrity unit for Arab States, says, "According to some estimates, the cost of corruption in Lebanon is equal to \$5 billion a year. So, putting that number in perspective, it is about nine percent of the country's GDP. And this is only the direct cost and does not include indirect costs, opportunity costs and also the social costs in terms of the health and well-being of citizens."

<https://www.voanews.com/middle-east/corruption-threatens-beirut-revival>

For more on this theme:

Corruption Amid A Pandemic

<https://theaseanpost.com/article/corruption-amid-pandemic>

Vanuatu's citizenships-for-sale scheme keeps economy afloat

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-pacific-vanuatu-debt/vanuatous-citizenships-for-sale-scheme-keeps-economy-afloat-idUSKBN25H0B8>

Auditors scrutinizing EU support to fight grand corruption in #Ukraine

<https://www.eureporter.co/frontpage/2020/08/28/auditors-scrutinizing-eu-support-to-fight-grand-corruption-in-ukraine/>

Impunity for grand corruption – a problem too big for international community to ignore

<https://www.transparency.org/en/blog/impunity-for-grand-corruption-too-big-to-ignore-ungass-2021>

South Africa's COVID relief fund dogged by delays and corruption

<https://www.thenewhumanitarian.org/news/2020/08/27/South-Africa-coronavirus-relief-fund-corruption>

The Lebanese Civilians Fighting Corruption with Dignity

<https://bylinetimes.com/2020/08/27/the-lebanese-civilians-fighting-corruption-with-dignity/>

Ramaphosa Addresses South Africa's Corruption

<https://www.voanews.com/africa/ramaphosa-addresses-south-africas-corruption>

Corruption Cries Mount Over Pandemic Spending in El Salvador

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/analysis/corruption-cries-mount-over-pandemic-spending-in-el-salvador/>

DRUG TRAFFICKING

Chad's illegal drug trade contributes to regional insecurity

Remadji Hoinathy – Institute for Security Studies: 25 August 2020

Curbing a tramadol trafficking cabal and other trafficking networks in the African nation of Chad requires transnational cooperation.

<https://issafrica.org/iss-today/chads-illegal-drug-trade-contributes-to-regional-insecurity>

Arrests, Seizures Show Colombians Processing Cocaine in Europe

Douwe den Held – InSight Crime: 24 August 2020

In discovering more cocaine processing facilities, Netherlands authorities are finding that the country's drug traffickers are not only shipping tons of cocaine to Europe but are also involved in producing the drug, including processing unrefined or altered cocaine.

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/brief/colombia-cocaine-facilities-europe/>

For more on this theme:

Mexico City Fentanyl Seizures May Point to Shifting Trafficking Trends

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/brief/mexico-city-fentanyl-seizures-trafficking-trends/>

Deadly synthetic drugs 'now mixed with cocaine and ecstasy', addiction therapists warn

<https://www.irishexaminer.com/news/arid-40039013.html>

Heroin's Hidden Ingredient Is a Chemical Made by U.S. Companies

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/features/2020-08-26/u-s-drug-crisis-is-made-in-mexico-with-american-raw-materials>

Drug cultivators trying to beat drone surveillance during operations in Kadavu as more than 6,700 marijuana plants uprooted

<https://www.fijivillage.com/feature/Drug-cultivators-trying-to-beat-drone-surveillance-during--operations-in-Kadavu-as-more-than-6700-marijuana-plants-uprooted-rf5x84/>

More Than Drug Trafficking Drives Violence in Colombia's Nariño

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/brief/drug-trafficking-violence-colombia/>

Mexican Cartels Use Drones To Eliminate Rivals In Drug-Trafficking Turf War

<http://www.sftimes.com/news/nationalandworld/mexican-cartels-use-drones-to-eliminate-rivals-in-drug-trafficking-turf-war>

US and Colombia Launch New Anti-Drug Trafficking Plan

<https://www.occrp.org/en/daily/12999-us-and-colombia-launch-new-anti-drug-trafficking-plan>

FENTANYL Results Act Aims to Fight Synthetic Drug Trafficking

<https://www.legalreader.com/fentanyl-results-act-aims-to-fight-synthetic-drug-trafficking/>

TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

Congolese elephant poacher sentenced to 30 years

Deutsche Welle: 25 August 2020

In a landmark case, the Republic of the Congo has jailed a notorious poacher for 30 years for ivory trafficking and the attempted murder of park rangers.

<https://www.dw.com/en/congolese-elephant-poacher-sentenced-to-30-years/a-54697087>

Sudan's Jabal Maragha: Illegal gold diggers destroy ancient site

BBC: 25 August 2020

Archaeologists were devastated to find Sudan's ancient Jabal Maragha destroyed by illegal gold diggers.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-53889663>

For more on this theme:

Turning the Tide on the Relentless Destruction of Cambodia's Forests

<https://e360.yale.edu/features/turning-the-tide-on-the-relentless-destruction-of-cambodias-forests>

Illegal fishing threatens food supplies, livelihoods

<https://share.america.gov/illegal-fishing-threatens-food-supplies-livelihoods/>

Illegal gold miners ravage Brazil's rainforest

<https://apnews.com/2a1352e0fb6c50a6e9629a726e999899>

Legislative changes, eco-tourism could curb illegal wildlife trade in Laos

<https://news.cgtn.com/news/2020-08-24/Livelihood-meat-demand-behind-surge-illegal-wildlife-trade-in-Laos-Tdq4QHlvks/index.html>

Special unit needed to curb illegal trade

<https://www.thestar.com.my/opinion/letters/2020/08/28/special-unit-needed-to-curb-illegal-trade>

Shocking ads selling white lion and tiger cubs to Aussies appear on Facebook

<https://au.news.yahoo.com/shocking-ads-selling-white-lion-tiger-cubs-facebook-070937680.html>

Rangunia Forest: Plundered by illegal loggers

<https://www.thedailystar.net/frontpage/news/rangunia-forest-plundered-illegal-loggers-1949813>

Cambodia's Land Concessions Yield Few Benefits, Sow Social and Environmental Devastation

<https://www.rfa.org/english/news/cambodia/concessions-08262020174829.html>

Fighting illegal logging in Ghana with an app

<https://www.dw.com/en/fighting-illegal-logging-in-ghana-with-an-app/av-54720867>

Big mammals at higher risk of extinction in world's poorest countries

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2020/08/200824105611.htm>

Tourist ban leaves Brazil's indigenous lands vulnerable to loggers

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-brazil-tourism/tourist-ban-leaves-brazils-indigenous-lands-vulnerable-to-loggers-idUSKBN25H23P>

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND IRREGULAR MIGRATION

How one teacher equips students to stop trafficking before it starts

Areeba Shah – The Christian Science Monitor: 24 August 2020

Teachers often take their responsibilities beyond the subjects they're expected to teach. In Ohio, Mona Al-Hayani developed a curriculum for human trafficking that raises awareness among adults and vulnerable young people.

<https://www.csmonitor.com/World/Making-a-difference/2020/0824/How-one-teacher-equips-students-to-stop-trafficking-before-it-starts>

For more on this theme:

UNHCR, IOM: Interception at sea is not the solution to channel crossings

<https://www.unhcr.org/news/press/2020/8/5f3567a84/unhcr-iom-interception-sea-solution-channel-crossings.html>

'Spa' raids in resort towns spark outrage over Mexico's human trafficking problem

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/08/10/americas/mexico-human-trafficking-intl/index.html>

UK Govt bankrolls cutting-edge tech to help fight human trafficking in Uganda

<https://www.kampalapost.com/content/uk-govt-bankrolls-cutting-edge-tech-help-fight-human-trafficking-uganda>

Irregular Migration Route to Spain Redirects Through Morocco to Canary Islands

<https://www.moroccoworldnews.com/2020/08/316641/irregular-migration-route-to-spain-redirects-through-morocco-to-canary-islands/>

He almost died migrating to Europe. Now he is warning other Gambians about it

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/08/26/africa/gambia-migration-intl/index.html>

Time to end double standards on missing persons

<https://euobserver.com/opinion/149253>

ORGANIZED CRIME

This is how to achieve a clean economic recovery that combats organized crime

Nadja Long, Nick Maxwell, Che Sidanius and Sean Doyle – World Economic Forum: 26 August 2020

Criminals have adapted quickly to thrive in the economic environment created by the coronavirus pandemic, exploiting the crisis to weave themselves into the legitimate economy.

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/08/this-is-how-to-achieve-a-clean-economic-recovery-that-removes-opportunities-for-organized-crime/>

For more on this theme:

Organized Crime Threatens Global Ocean Sustainability

<https://www.occrp.org/en/daily/13026-organized-crime-threatens-global-ocean-sustainability>

Business Is Booming for the Italian Mafia During COVID

https://www.vice.com/en_us/article/xg8pwa/business-is-booming-for-the-italian-mafia-during-covid

PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

INTERNET FREEDOM

How WeChat Censored the Coronavirus Pandemic

Louise Matsakis – Wired: 27 August 2020

In China, the WeChat messaging platform blocked thousands of keywords related to the coronavirus, according to a new report from Citizen Lab, a research group that focuses on technology and human rights.

<https://www.wired.com/story/wechat-chinese-internet-censorship-coronavirus/>

For more on this theme:

(Global) Five Ways Telecommunications Companies Can Fight Internet Shutdowns

<https://www.lawfareblog.com/five-ways-telecommunications-companies-can-fight-internet-shutdowns>

(India, Kashmir) India restores 4G internet services in parts of Kashmir

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-india-kashmir-internet-idUSKCN25C0PD>

(Nigeria) Criticisms as Nigeria's new broadcasting code targets internet TV, radio stations

<https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/headlines/410641-criticisms-as-nigerias-new-broadcasting-code-targets-internet-tv-radio-stations.html>

(Belarus) Belarus Turned Off the Internet. Its Citizens Hot-Wired It.

<https://www.gizmodo.co.uk/2020/08/belarus-turned-off-the-internet-its-citizens-hot-wired-it/>

CYBER ATTACKS, THREATS AND VULNERABILITIES

CISA warns of BLINDINGCAN, a new strain of North Korean malware

Catalin Cimpanu – ZDNet: 19 August 2020

The U.S. Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency published an alert about a new strain of malware deployed by North Korean government hackers.

<https://www.zdnet.com/article/cisa-warns-of-blindingcan-a-new-strain-of-north-korean-malware/>

For more on this theme:

(U.S., China) FBI/CISA Warn US Firms of State-Mandated Tax Malware

<https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/news/fbicisa-warn-us-firms/>

(Iran, Global) Group of unskilled Iranian hackers behind recent attacks with Dharma ransomware

<https://www.zdnet.com/article/group-of-unskilled-iranian-hackers-behind-recent-attacks-with-dharma-ransomware/>

(New Zealand) New Zealand's stock exchange down for fourth day in a row after cyber attacks

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/08/28/new-zealands-exchange-nzx-down-for-fourth-day-after-cyber-attacks.html>

CYBER CRIME

Online Crime in Africa a 'Bigger Threat Than Ever Before'

Homeland Security Today: 17 August 2020

A new Interpol report on online organized crime in Africa shows how digitalization is transforming almost every major crime area across the continent. "Online crime now represents a bigger security issue for law enforcement in Africa than ever before," according to the report, which details how the different layers of the internet are used by organized crime groups in Africa to perpetuate crimes.

<https://www.hstoday.us/subject-matter-areas/transportation/online-crime-in-africa-a-bigger-threat-than-ever-before/>

For more on this theme:

(U.S., Russia) Russian arrested for trying to recruit an insider and hack a Nevada company

<https://www.zdnet.com/article/russian-arrested-for-trying-to-recruit-an-insider-and-hack-a-nevada-company/>

(North Korea, Global) Lazarus group strikes cryptocurrency firm through LinkedIn job adverts

<https://www.zdnet.com/article/lazarus-group-strikes-cryptocurrency-firm-through-linkedin-job-adverts/>

(Australia) NSW pledges AU\$60m to create cyber 'army'

<https://www.zdnet.com/article/nsw-pledges-au60m-to-create-cyber-army/>

(Global) As E-commerce Expands, So Does Cybercrime

<https://wwd.com/business-news/business-features/riskiq-report-1203707099/>

CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING

School is starting — and the broadband gap will be a massive problem

Shara Tibken – CNET: 26 August 2020

The digital divide means millions of American children don't have broadband connections at home, even as their schools hold virtual classes. Public and private assistance hasn't been enough to bridge the gap for many.

<https://www.cnet.com/news/back-to-school-season-is-here-but-the-homework-gap-is-still-a-massive-problem/>

For more on this theme:

(U.S.) Army gets prototype for cyber visualization tool

<https://www.c4isrnet.com/cyber/2020/08/14/army-gets-prototype-for-cyber-visualization-tool/>

(U.S.) DOD Leaders Provide Digital Modernization Updates

<https://www.defense.gov/Explore/News/Article/Article/2315094/dod-leaders-provide-digital-modernization-updates/>

(South Africa) Laptops, internet connectivity for rural youth

<https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/laptops-internet-connectivity-rural-youth>

CYBER PROTECTION OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Red Cross chief: cyber attacks increasing on hospitals

Edith M. Lederer – The Associated Press: 26 August 2020

The president of the International Committee of the Red Cross warned that the frequency of sophisticated cyber attacks against hospitals, electricity and water supplies, and other critical civilian infrastructure is increasing.

<https://apnews.com/3676505e1426752f90b87e490eca42bb>

For more on this theme:

(U.S.) Dismissing Cyber Catastrophe

<https://www.csis.org/analysis/dismissing-cyber-catastrophe>

(U.S.) Zoom is now critical infrastructure. That's a concern

<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/techtank/2020/08/27/zoom-is-now-critical-infrastructure-thats-a-concern/>

PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

How to Compete in Cyberspace

Paul M. Nakasone and Michael Sulmeyer – Foreign Affairs: 25 August 2020

Gen. Paul Nakasone, head of the National Security Agency and U.S. Cyber Command, and Michael Sulmeyer, senior advisor to the commander, argue that partnering with the government is not only necessary for success in cyberspace, but is mutually beneficial.

<https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/united-states/2020-08-25/cybersecurity>

For more on this theme:

(U.S., Global) Post-Pandemic Digitalization: Building a Human-Centric Cybersecurity Strategy

<https://www.darkreading.com/attacks-breaches/post-pandemic-digitalization-building-a-human-centric-cybersecurity-strategy/a/d-id/1338659>

(U.S.) Public and Private Sectors Team to Fight Election Interference

<https://www.afcea.org/content/public-and-private-sectors-team-fight-election-interference>

MASS SURVEILLANCE AND INTELLIGENCE GATHERING

Hackers Leak Alleged Internal Files of Chinese Social Media Monitoring Firms

Lorenzo Franceschi-Bicchierai – VICE: 21 August 2020

A group of hackers claims to have breached three Chinese companies that specialize in social media surveillance.

https://www.vice.com/en_us/article/dyzevz/hackers-leak-alleged-internal-files-of-chinese-social-media-monitoring-firms

For more on this theme:

(U.S.) Who thought it was a good idea to have facial recognition software?

<https://www.brookings.edu/research/who-thought-it-was-a-good-idea-to-have-facial-recognition-software/>

(India) Access to Welfare Programs in India Could Soon Depend on Facial Recognition Scans

<https://onezero.medium.com/access-to-welfare-programs-in-india-could-soon-depend-on-facial-recognition-scans-a09d21a96b1d>

(China) Blockchain Now Powers Parts of China's Social Credit System

<https://decrypt.co/39905/blockchain-now-powers-parts-of-chinas-social-credit-system>

PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

ISIS AND FOREIGN FIGHTERS

Niger Attack Demonstrates Islamic State in West Africa's Growing Reach

Jacob Zenn – Council on Foreign Relations: 25 August 2020

The ISIS-affiliated groups in the Sahel and Nigeria are becoming harder to distinguish from one another as their areas of operation blur.

<https://www.cfr.org/blog/niger-attack-demonstrates-islamic-state-west-africas-growing-reach>

For more on this theme:

ISIS-Affiliated Fighters Take Control Of A Strategic Port In Mozambique

<https://www.npr.org/2020/08/21/904798059/isis-affiliated-fighters-take-control-of-a-strategic-port-in-mozambique>

Twin bombings kill 15, wound scores in Philippine south

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-philippines-security/twin-bombings-kill-15-wound-scores-in-philippine-south-idUSKBN25K0QP>

UN: Over 10,000 Islamic State fighters active in Iraq, Syria

<https://apnews.com/2c8b169591a6b21e73dc253d997f038e>

Repatriating Detained Foreign Fighters, Their Families Key to Combating Threat Posed by Islamic State, Counter-Terrorism Officials Warn Security Council

<https://reliefweb.int/report/iraq/repatriating-detained-foreign-fighters-their-families-key-combating-threat-posed-islamic>

Islamic State operative planning 'sensational' attack nabbed in Istanbul

<https://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2020/08/turkey-islamic-state-attack-istanbul-syria-gaziantep.html>

Islamic State's India Dilemma

<https://thediplomat.com/2020/08/islamic-states-india-dilemma/>

Islamic State begins to gain foothold in Mozambique

<https://www.newdelhitimes.com/islamic-state-begins-to-gain-foothold-in-mozambique/>

COVID-19 and Terrorism in the Southern Philippines: More Trouble Ahead

<https://thediplomat.com/2020/08/covid-19-and-terrorism-in-the-southern-philippines-more-trouble-ahead/>

TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

Why power-broker Hezbollah is still rocked by Beirut blast

Scott Peterson – The Christian Science Monitor: 24 August 2020

Experts say Hezbollah is now facing a major challenge to protect its influence and shape the country's future government because many protesters see it as part of the government that became an obstacle to ending corruption in the political system.

<https://www.csmonitor.com/World/Middle-East/2020/0824/Why-power-broker-Hezbollah-is-still-rocked-by-Beirut-blast>

Afghan Leaders: US-Backed Peace Talks with Taliban to Begin Next Week

Ayaz Gul – Voice of America: 27 August 2020

Highly anticipated peace talks between the Afghan government and the Taliban could begin as early as the first week in September after repeated delays amid disputes over a prisoner swap of hundreds of Taliban fighters who have been linked to deadly attacks since the war began nearly two decades ago.

<https://www.voanews.com/south-central-asia/afghan-leaders-us-backed-peace-talks-taliban-begin-next-week>

For more on this theme:

Cryptocurrency and the Dismantling of Terrorism Financing Campaigns

<https://www.lawfareblog.com/cryptocurrency-and-dismantling-terrorism-financing-campaigns>

Mutating terror threat still looms over Europe

<https://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/world/mutating-terror-threat-still-looms-over-europe-13061844>

Weakened in battle, Shabaab now opts for softer targets

<https://nation.africa/kenya/news/africa/shabaab-now-opts-for-softer-targets-1925258>

Divisions emerge within Al-Shabaab after murder of top commander

<https://www.garoweonline.com/en/news/somalia/divisions-emerge-within-al-shabaab-after-murder-of-top-commander>

Al-Qaeda Blows up Yemen Clinic After Executing Dentist

<https://www.thedefensepost.com/2020/08/25/al-qaeda-blows-up-yemen-clinic/>

Cameroon: Boko Haram Suicide Bombers Strike Displacement Site

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/08/25/cameroon-boko-haram-suicide-bombers-strike-displacement-site>

The Rise Of Mullah Yaqoob, The Taliban's New Military Chief

<https://www.rferl.org/a/the-rise-of-mullah-yaqoob-the-taliban-new-military-chief/30805362.html>

Taliban Attacks on Afghan Forces Cause Dozens of Casualties

<https://www.voanews.com/south-central-asia/taliban-attacks-afghan-forces-cause-dozens-casualties>

RADICALIZATION AND MESSAGING

How are women transforming Indonesia's extremist landscape?

Umair Jamal – ASEAN Today: 25 August 2020

In recent years, Indonesian women have taken on active roles in terror groups. But because jihadi groups are traditionally dominated by men, the government has yet to develop strategies to address the radicalization of women.

<https://www.aseantoday.com/2020/08/how-are-women-transforming-indonesias-extremist-landscape/>

For more on this theme:

How the world's longest internet shutdown has failed to counter extremism in Kashmir

<https://www.orfonline.org/expert-speak/how-the-worlds-longest-internet-shutdown-has-failed-to-counter-extremism-in-kashmir/>

Countering terrorism and violent extremism at Facebook: Technology, expertise and partnerships

<https://www.orfonline.org/expert-speak/countering-terrorism-and-violent-extremism-at-facebook/>

Deradicalizing Militants the High-Tech Way

<https://tol.org/client/article/deradicalizing-militants-the-high-tech-way.html>

Understanding the full spectrum of hate

IRREGULAR WARFARE: SOFT POWER

Confucius Institutes advance Chinese propaganda on campuses

Leigh Hartman – Share America: 27 August 2020

China must now reveal more about its role in supporting Confucius Institutes' activities on U.S. college campuses, which include propaganda and censorship. The U.S. Department of State on August 13 designated the Washington-based headquarters of the Confucius Institute network a foreign mission of the People's Republic of China.

<https://share.america.gov/confucius-institutes-advance-chinese-propaganda/>

For more on this theme:

China alone

<https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/china-alone/>

How Qatar uses soft power to conquer the world

<https://www.dw.com/en/qatar-football-psg-world-cup/a-54706466>

IRREGULAR WARFARE: PROXY FORCES

The Role of Russian Private Military Contractors in Africa

Anna Borshchevskaya – Foreign Policy Research Institute: 21 August 2020

Moscow is increasingly using so-called private military contractors as proxy forces to pursue foreign policy objectives across the globe, especially in the Middle East and Africa.

<https://www.fpri.org/article/2020/08/the-role-of-russian-private-military-contractors-in-africa/>

For more on this theme:

Chinese Boats Return as South China Sea Fishing Ban Ends

<https://www.benarnews.org/english/news/philippine/ban-ends-08182020184018.html>

IRREGULAR WARFARE: DISINFORMATION AND MALIGN INFLUENCE

Twitter takes down 'Dracula' botnet pushing pro-Chinese propaganda

Catalin Cimpanu – ZDNet: 26 August 2020

Social media research group Graphika said it identified a Twitter botnet of about 3,000 bots that pushed pro-Chinese political spam, echoing official messaging released through state propaganda accounts.

<https://www.zdnet.com/article/twitter-takes-down-dracula-botnet-pushing-pro-chinese-propaganda/>

For more on this theme:

Ex-IDF Intelligence official: Russian cyber, disinformation trends converge with vaccine

<https://www.jpost.com/international/ex-idf-intelligence-official-russian-cyber-disinformation-trends-converge-with-vaccine-638977>

How the Chinese Communist Party steals science

<https://share.america.gov/how-chinese-communist-party-steals-science/>

Covid-19 disinformation campaigns shift focus to vaccines

<https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/covid-19-disinformation-campaigns-shift-focus-to-vaccines/>

CONSEQUENCE MANAGEMENT

CORONAVIRUS

UK will pay low-income residents to self-isolate because of COVID-19

Reuters: 27 August 2020

The United Kingdom will pay low-income residents to self-isolate if they have a confirmed or suspected case of coronavirus as the government steps up measures to keep the virus under control.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/health-coronavirus-britain-pay/uk-will-pay-low-income-residents-to-self-isolate-because-of-covid-19-idUSL4N2FS3PX>

For more on this theme:

Papua New Guinea Demands China Explain COVID-19 Vaccine Trial on Miners

<https://thediplomat.com/2020/08/papua-new-guinea-demands-china-explain-covid-19-vaccine-trial-on-miners/>

Further coronavirus heart impact discovered; new clues to why women fare better than men

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-science/further-coronavirus-heart-impact-discovered-new-clues-to-why-women-fare-better-than-men-idUSKBN25M2JM>

What's an 'essential service'? Not knowing could block access to key digital services during COVID

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/08/defining-essential-services-ensure-access-to-key-digital-services-during-covid/>

This \$5 rapid test is a potential game-changer in Covid testing

<https://amp.cnn.com/cnn/2020/08/27/investing/abbott-labs-rapid-covid-test/index.html>

COVID-19 Travel Bans Are Boost For "Golden Passport" Market

<https://worldcrunch.com/world-affairs/covid-19-travel-bans-are-boost-for-golden-passport-market>

Covid-19 and Ghana's December Elections

<https://www.csis.org/analysis/covid-19-and-ghanas-december-elections>

International Financial Institutions' Ongoing Response to the Covid-19 Crisis

<https://www.csis.org/analysis/international-financial-institutions-ongoing-response-covid-19-crisis>

We're not doing enough to protect COVID-19 vaccine research from cyber espionage

<https://in homelandsecurity.com/were-not-doing-enough-to-protect-covid-19-vaccine-research-from-cyber-espionage/>

China's offer of coronavirus tests for all in Hong Kong meets with public distrust

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-hongkong-testing/chinas-offer-of-coronavirus-tests-for-all-in-hong-kong-meets-with-public-distrust-idUSKBN25N0G4>