

THE MARSHALL CENTER

transnational weekly



A CURRENT AWARENESS SERVICE FROM THE MARSHALL CENTER

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COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

Corruption undermines democracy and contributes to instability, warns senior UN anti-crime official

United Nations News: 28 August 2019

Corruption has been a scourge many nations have tried to beat, although with varying degrees of success. A senior United Nations official warned that corruption weakens democratic institutions, slows economic growth and is a factor in government instability.

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2019/08/1045081>

Jordan: Anti-corruption law praised but questions remain

Ali Younes – Al Jazeera: 5 September 2019

Some Jordan Parliament members have been pushing government contracts to their businesses. A new law will curtail that practice, making it illegal for public officials to do business with the government. Critics say it won't change things because many parliamentarians place their businesses under the names of family members.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/09/jordan-anti-corruption-law-praised-questions-remain-190905171205639.html>

For more on this theme:

African youth demand stiffer punishment for corrupt officials

<https://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/NewsArchive/African-youth-demand-stiffer-punishment-for-corrupt-officials-774213#>

Fake Cigarette Ring Exposes Jordan's Corruption Woes

<https://www.occrp.org/en/37-ccb/ccb/10533-fake-cigarette-ring-exposes-jordan-s-corruption-woes>

Britain urges Zambia to fight corruption to unlock aid

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-zambia-corruption/britain-urges-zambia-to-fight-corruption-to-unlock-aid-idUSKCN1VH1S7>

'Mafia State' Slovakia Struggles to Root Out Corruption

<https://balkaninsight.com/2019/08/28/mafia-state-slovakia-struggles-to-root-out-corruption/>

Police are the most corrupt public servants: Corruption Watch report

<https://www.timeslive.co.za/news/south-africa/2019-08-27-police-are-the-most-corrupt-public-servants-corruption-watch-report/>

The Truth About Cambodia's So-Called Corruption Crackdown

<https://thediplomat.com/2019/08/the-truth-about-cambodias-so-called-corruption-crackdown/>

Using big data to combat SA's scourge of corruption

<https://www.fin24.com/Finweek/Business-and-economy/using-big-data-to-combat-sas-scurge-of-corruption-20190829>

Ukraine's high anti-corruption court starts work

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/world/ukraines-high-anti-corruption-court-starts-work/1574080>

DRUG TRAFFICKING

Death, made in Mexico: Traffickers embrace fentanyl

Kate Linthicum – Los Angeles Times: 1 September 2019

Although most of the fentanyl on U.S. streets historically has come from China, experts now say the majority is smuggled in from Mexico, where traffickers have embraced it over heroin because it is easy to transport and cost-effective.

<https://www.latimes.com/world/mexico-americas/la-fg-mexico-drugs-20190706-story.html>

Heady days of Amsterdam's drug culture turn bad as hard stuff brings violence and corruption

Reuters: 28 August 2019

Officials in Amsterdam have been reluctant to prosecute offenders found with small amounts of marijuana. But that laissez-faire attitude doesn't work as well with hard drugs because of the violence associated with their illicit trade.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-netherlands-drugs/heady-days-of-amsterdams-drug-culture-turn-bad-as-hard-stuff-brings-violence-and-corruption-idUSKCN1V110J>

For more on this theme:

Vehicle scanning technology at the border is about to ruin the drug trade

<https://krcgtv.com/news/nation-world/vehicle-scanning-technology-at-the-border-is-about-to-ruin-the-drug-trade>

The Opioid Reckoning Will Not Be Just

<https://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2019/08/opioid-justice/597064/>

Brazil's cocaine trade leaves widespread violence in its wake

<https://www.dw.com/en/brazils-cocaine-trade-leaves-widespread-violence-in-its-wake/a-50188646>

A new approach to criminalisation could end Cape Town's drug wars

<https://theconversation.com/a-new-approach-to-criminalisation-could-end-cape-towns-drug-wars-121769>

Myanmar's illegal drug crisis a 'serious issue', says expert

<http://mizzima.com/article/myanmars-illegal-drug-crisis-serious-issue-says-expert>

Three in Four Addicts in North India Start Abusing Drugs Before They're 20, New Study Finds

https://www.vice.com/en_in/article/ywavm5/three-in-four-addicts-in-north-india-start-abusing-drugs-before-theyre-20-new-study-finds

America's Jails Are Pretending the Opioid Crisis Doesn't Exist

https://www.vice.com/en_us/article/9kebnp/americas-jails-are-pretending-the-opioid-crisis-doesnt-exist

Marijuana and meth are getting more popular in America, but cocaine has declined

<https://www.sciencenews.org/article/drug-trends-marijuana-meth-more-popular-america-cocaine-decline>

Study: Washington teens used less marijuana following legalization

<https://www.chicagotribune.com/marijuana/sns-tft-teens-sed-less-after-legalization-20190826-75z7svkeurgjdkqris73g2gdwm-story.html>

TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

Southeast Asia Must Confront its Illegal Tiger Problem

Preeti Jha – The Diplomat: 28 August 2019

Although fewer than 4,000 tigers roam free worldwide, twice that number are in breeding facilities across Asia that are run for profit, not conservation. A new report from the nongovernmental organization TRAFFIC indicates that these breeding facilities are fueling the illegal wildlife trade.

<https://thediplomat.com/2019/08/southeast-asia-must-confront-its-illegal-tiger-problem/>

Full report:

Skin and Bones Unresolved: An Analysis of Tiger Seizures from 2018-2000

<https://www.traffic.org/site/assets/files/12344/skin-and-bones-unresolved-1.pdf>

'We have cut them all': Ghana struggles to protect its last old-growth forests

Awudu Salami Sulemana Yoda – Mongabay: 28 August 2019

Ghana's Forestry Commission often ignores the illegal logging occurring right under its nose in the country's forest reserves. Attempts at intervention have been thwarted by loggers who know how to avoid detection. This has resulted in deforestation climbing 60% between 2017 and 2018.

<https://news.mongabay.com/2019/08/we-have-cut-them-all-ghana-struggles-to-protect-its-last-old-growth-forests/>

For more on this theme:

Tackling an environmental crisis in Peru

<https://www.seas.harvard.edu/news/2019/08/tackling-environmental-crisis-in-peru>

Nexus between timber mafias & locals in illegal logging surface

<https://arunachaltimes.in/index.php/2019/08/22/nexus-between-timber-mafias-locals-in-illegal-logging-surface/>

New Survey Finds Hundreds of Endangered Bird Parts for Sale on Facebook

<https://earther.gizmodo.com/new-survey-finds-hundreds-of-endangered-bird-parts-for-1837624392>

Calls for crackdown on illegal eel smuggling from Europe

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/08/calls-crackdown-illegal-eel-smuggling-europe-190821124212530.html>

Songbirds Silenced as Colombia Fights Wildlife Trafficking

<https://learningenglish.voanews.com/a/songbirds-silenced-as-colombia-fights-wildlife-trafficking/5042186.html>

The ultra-rich are illegally buying cheetahs as pets and it's leading to their extinction

<https://www.cnn.com/2019/08/28/africa/somali-land-cheetahs-gulf-intl/index.html>

Pangolin scale medicines no longer covered by Chinese insurance

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/2019/08/pangolin-traditional-medicine-not-covered-insurance/>

CITES: Elephant ivory ban upheld, but legal loopholes remain

<https://www.dw.com/en/cites-elephant-ivory-ban-upheld-but-legal-loopholes-remain/a-50118236>

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND IRREGULAR MIGRATION

Nigeria: Anguish, Poverty Confront Trafficking Survivors

Human Rights Watch: 27 August 2019

Nigerian trafficking survivors who escape a life as sex workers or slaves are not getting enough support from their government, Human Rights Watch says. A 90-page report shows that women and girls are being held in slavery-like conditions inside Nigeria and reveals accounts of unlawful detentions in shelters.

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2019/08/27/nigeria-anguish-poverty-confront-trafficking-survivors>

Corruption and migration in Italy: 'Did you know you can make more money with immigrants than with drugs?'

Emma Wallis – InfoMigrants: 5 September 2019

In Italy, corruption and migration go hand in hand. The European Anti-Fraud Office just released new findings on corruption in the European Union that shows Italy's misuse of migration funds is linked to notorious organized crime networks and public officials.

<https://www.infomigrants.net/en/post/19326/corruption-and-migration-in-italy-did-you-know-you-can-make-more-money-with-immigrants-than-with-drugs>

For more on this theme:

EU-Africa Partnership: Human Capital Formation and Skill Mobility in Focus

<https://www.eubulletin.com/10177-eu-africa-partnership-human-capital-formation-and-skill-mobility-in-focus.html>

Model of Migration Law Approved for Central America and the Caribbean

<https://www.iom.int/news/model-migration-law-approved-central-america-and-caribbean>

NGOs in Italy, Nigeria Join Forces against Human Trafficking

<https://www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2019/08/16/ngos-in-italy-nigeria-join-forces-against-human-trafficking/>

US-Brazil Partnership Captures Human Smugglers

<https://www.occrp.org/en/daily/10542-us-brazil-partnership-captures-human-smugglers>

'The Outlaw Ocean': A Forgotten Frontier Where Slavery And Illegal Activities Abound

<https://www.npr.org/2019/08/21/751707831/the-outlaw-ocean-a-forgotten-frontier-where-slavery-and-illegal-activities-abound>

Brazil Government Turns to Cartoons and Movies to Fight Slave Labor

<https://brazzil.com/brazil-government-turns-to-cartoons-and-movies-to-fight-slave-labor/>

Cal Poly cybersecurity program works to uncover human trafficking

<https://www.kcbx.org/post/cal-poly-cybersecurity-program-works-uncover-human-trafficking#stream/0>

Microsoft, district attorney group launch campaign to combat human trafficking

<https://thehill.com/business-a-lobbying/458552-microsoft-teams-up-with-district-attorney-group-to-combat-human>

Slavery in Malaysia

<https://theasianpost.com/article/slavery-malaysia>

SMUGGLING, PIRACY AND COUNTERFEITING

Smuggled North Korean Cigarettes Become Increasingly Popular in China

Radio Free Asia: 27 August 2019

To save money on their expensive habit, Chinese smokers are turning to a North Korean brand of similar quality that is one-tenth the price of Chinese brands. The problem, however, is that the cigarettes must be smuggled into the country, and that revenue is helping a highly sanctioned regime.

<https://www.rfa.org/english/news/korea/nk-cigarettes-china-08272019141157.html>

For more on this theme:

Nigerian Leader Says Rice Smuggling on Benin Border Alarming

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2019-08-28/nigerian-leader-says-rice-smuggling-on-benin-border-alarming>

Jordan police, protesters clash over anti-smuggling efforts

<https://www.apnews.com/15af9722cc29494d902fd290a52684b8>

Bill Aims to Deter Piracy by Teaching Copyright in Philippine Schools

<https://torrentfreak.com/bill-aims-to-deter-piracy-by-teaching-copyright-in-philippine-schools-190823/>

Copyright Alliance Puts Pressure on the U.S. to Fight Online Piracy More Aggressively

<https://www.technadu.com/copyright-alliance-u-s-fight-online-piracy-aggressively/77792/>

How Counterfeit Products Affect Brands and Consumers

<https://www.entrepreneur.com/article/338635>

How Blockchain Can Fight Counterfeiting and Fraud

<https://www.globaltrademag.com/global-trade-daily/how-blockchain-can-fight-counterfeiting-and-fraud/>

Exclusive: Fake-branded bars slip dirty gold into world markets

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-gold-swiss-fakes-exclusive/exclusive-fake-branded-bars-slip-dirty-gold-into-world-markets-idUSKCN1VI0DD>

Joint Asean action sought to fight fake medicine

<https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50638362/joint-asean-action-sought-to-fight-fake-medicine/>

PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

INTERNET FREEDOM

Uganda Expands Its Internet Clampdown, Stifling the Last Space for Free Speech

Sophie Neiman – World Politics Review: 3 September 2019

Uganda has been increasing limits and regulations on internet use for several months, requiring social media “influencers” to pay a fee and register with the state. The country also has cracked down on social media criticism of the government, putting people in jail for speaking out against the president. This internet censorship is shutting down one of the last outlets for free speech in Uganda.

<https://www.worldpoliticsreview.com/articles/28159/uganda-expands-its-internet-clampdown-stifling-the-last-space-for-free-speech>

For more on this theme:

(Zimbabwe, Global) Life in an Internet Shutdown: Crossing Borders for Email and Contraband SIM Cards

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/09/02/world/africa/internet-shutdown-economy.html>

(Belarus) Fearing Western sanctions, Belarus rules out internet restrictions ‘for now’

<https://emerging-europe.com/news/fearing-western-sanctions-belarus-rules-out-internet-restrictions-for-now/>

PRIVACY AND SECURITY

The US government isn’t ready to regulate the internet. Today’s Google fine shows why.

Peter Kafka – Vox: 4 September 2019

Google will pay a \$170 million fine as part of a settlement with the U.S. Federal Trade Commission and the Attorney General of New York. The investigation found that Google-owned YouTube violated the Children’s Online Privacy Protection Act by illegally collecting personal information from children without their parents’ consent. Critics say the fine isn’t nearly enough.

<https://www.vox.com/recode/2019/9/4/20849143/youtube-google-ftc-kids-settlement-170-million-copa-privacy-regulation>

For more on this theme:

(Kenya) UN: Kenyans the most care-free users of internet globally

<https://www.nation.co.ke/news/Kenyans-the-most-carefree-users-of-internet/1056-5261054-1b6rqjz/index.html>

(Global) Ranking Digital Rights Project Seeks to Compare Privacy and Free Expression by Big Tech and Internet Companies

<http://broadbandbreakfast.com/2019/09/ranking-digital-rights-project-seeks-to-compare-privacy-and-free-expression-by-big-tech-and-internet-companies/>

CYBER STATECRAFT DEVELOPMENT

Iran-led state-sponsored attacks remain a major threat to Middle East stability

Alkesh Sharma – The National: 5 September 2019

Microsoft has linked Iranian hackers to cyber attacks around the globe that have targeted thousands of people. These attacks have been focused on disrupting economic and social stability, and have become more sophisticated over the past five years.

<https://www.thenational.ae/iran-led-state-sponsored-attacks-remain-a-major-threat-to-middle-east-stability-1.906752>

For more on this theme:

(North Korea) North Korea denies it amassed \$2 billion through cyberattacks on banks

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-northkorea-cyber/north-korea-denies-it-amassed-2-billion-through-cyberattacks-on-banks-idUSKCN1VM18K>

(U.S., Poland) U.S. and Poland Ink 5G Security Agreement Amid Anti-Huawei Campaign

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2019-09-02/u-s-poland-ink-5g-security-agreement-amid-anti-huawei-campaign>

PROTECTION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

What the Takedown of Two Streaming Services Means for Piracy

Brian Barrett – Wired: 29 August 2019

When the government cracked down on Jetflix and iStreamItAll, it drew a clear line that not all streaming subscription services are equal. With more services being set up all the time, the fight is far from over.

<https://www.wired.com/story/jetflixs-istreamitall-takedown-piracy/>

For more on this theme:

(U.S.) NSA looks to 'up its game' in cyber defense

<https://www.fifthdomain.com/civilian/2019/09/05/nsa-looks-to-up-its-game-in-cyber-defense/>

(China, U.S.) Top IT official names China as main cyber threat to US

<https://thehill.com/policy/national-security/459961-top-it-official-names-china-as-main-cyber-threat-to-us>

(Israel) Concerns Mount as Israel Eases Rules on Cyber Weapons for Cyber Espionage

<https://www.cpomagazine.com/cyber-security/concerns-mount-as-israel-eases-rules-on-cyber-weapons-for-cyber-espionage/>

(Australia) Spy chief says foreign espionage and interference an 'existential threat' to Australia

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/sep/05/spy-chief-says-foreign-espionage-and-interference-an-existential-threat-to-australia>

CYBER ATTACKS, THREATS AND VULNERABILITIES

A huge database of Facebook users' phone numbers found online

Zack Whittaker – TechCrunch: 4 September 2019

Hundreds of millions of Facebook users' phone numbers were exposed in an open online database. It is the latest example of Facebook's past privacy lapses coming back to haunt its users.

<https://techcrunch.com/2019/09/04/facebook-phone-numbers-exposed/>

For more on this theme:

(UAE, Global) UAE cyber experts unite to warn against unprecedented criminal threat

<https://www.thenational.ae/uae/uae-cyber-experts-unite-to-warn-against-unprecedented-criminal-threat-1.905975>

(Russia, Global) Recent ransomware surge linked to Russian criminal group

<https://statescoop.com/recent-ransomware-surge-russian-criminal-group/>

(Global) Google Says Malicious Websites Have Been Quietly Hacking iPhones for Years

https://www.vice.com/en_us/article/bjwne5/malicious-websites-hacked-iphones-for-years

CYBER PROTECTION OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Top NSA cyber official points to ransomware attacks as key threat to 2020 elections

Maggie Miller – The Hill: 4 September 2019

The director of the newly formed Cybersecurity Directorate at the U.S. National Security Agency believes ransomware attacks are the key threat to the 2020 elections.

<https://thehill.com/policy/cybersecurity/459994-top-nsa-cyber-official-points-to-ransomware-attacks-as-key-threat-to>

For more on this theme:

(U.S.) Exclusive: U.S. officials fear ransomware attack against 2020 election

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-cyber-election-exclusive/exclusive-u-s-officials-fear-ransomware-attack-against-2020-election-idUSKCN1VG222>

(U.S.) Big Tech Companies Meeting With U.S. Officials on 2020 Election Security

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/09/04/technology/2020-election-facebook-google.html>

(U.K.) Is critical infrastructure now vulnerable? Former GCHQ chief on the new cyber threat

<https://www.prospectmagazine.co.uk/science-and-technology/is-critical-infrastructure-now-vulnerable-former-gchq-chief-on-the-new-cyber-threat>

HUMAN RESOURCES AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Teen Cybersecurity Training Program Returns For Third Year

Michael Hill – Infosecurity Magazine: 3 September 2019

Cyber Discovery, an online cyber security training program, is focused on helping close the United Kingdom's cyber security skills gap by encouraging teens to pursue cyber careers.

<https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/news/cybersecurity-training-program/>

For more on this theme:

(U.S., Global) For Young Female Coders, Internship Interviews Can Be Toxic

<https://www.wired.com/story/for-young-female-coders-internship-interviews-can-be-toxic/>

(U.K.) Teenage Hackers Wanted: Could Your Kid Be The Next £20M Cybersecurity Superhero?

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/daveywinder/2019/09/03/teenage-hackers-wanted-could-your-kid-be-the-next-20m-cybersecurity-superhero/#138347b1d720>

(Global) Corporate Boards Are Snatching Up Cybersecurity Talents

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/chenxiwang/2019/08/30/corporate-boards-are-snatching-up-cybersecurity-talents/#58a517d2479f>

NOTEWORTHY PODCASTS

The Lawfare Podcast: Tom Wheeler on the Need for Real Cybersecurity for 5G

Jen Patja Howell – Lawfare: 3 September 2019

Margaret Taylor interviews Tom Wheeler, the former chairman of the Federal Communications Commission and a Brookings scholar, about issues surrounding 5G and his report on why that technology requires new approaches to cyber security.

<https://www.lawfareblog.com/lawfare-podcast-tom-wheeler-need-real-cybersecurity-5g>

For more on this theme:

(Global) Crowdsourcing Phishing Defenses for Herd Immunity

<https://www.recordedfuture.com/podcast-episode-123/>

(Global) Think before you post.

<https://thecyberwire.com/podcasts/cw-podcasts-hh-2019-09-05.html>

(Global) The CyberWire Daily Podcast — Episode 919

<https://thecyberwire.com/podcasts/cw-podcasts-daily-2019-09-03.html>

STRATEGY AND POLICY

(Australia) Australia is getting a new cybersecurity strategy

Asha Barbaschow – ZDNet: 6 September 2019

Australia is updating its cyber security strategy and is looking for feedback. “Despite making strong progress against the goals set in 2016, the threat environment has changed significantly and we need to adapt our approach to improve the security of business and the community,” said Home Affairs Minister Peter Dutton.

<https://www.zdnet.com/article/australia-is-getting-a-new-cybersecurity-strategy/>

For more on this theme:

(U.S.) DOD Seeks Ethicist to Guide Deployment of Artificial Intelligence

<https://www.defense.gov/explore/story/Article/1950724/dod-seeks-ethicist-to-guide-deployment-of-artificial-intelligence/source/GovDelivery/>

(U.S.) NIST Publishes Second Draft of Cyber Resilience Guidance

<https://www.meritalk.com/articles/nist-publishes-second-draft-of-cyber-resilience-guidance/>

TRAINING AND EXERCISES

Microsoft, in association with Elets, organises Digital Governance Tech Summit to impart technical skills

Elets News Network – eGov Magazine: 28 August 2019

Microsoft India, with Elets Technomedia, partnered with the government of India to launch a training program for government employees on artificial intelligence, data governance and cloud computing.

<https://egov.eletsonline.com/2019/08/microsoft-in-association-with-elets-organises-digital-governance-tech-summit-to-impart-technical-skills/>

For more on this theme:

(U.S.) Cyber reskilling grads grow skills but may not be headed for cyber jobs

<https://fcw.com/articles/2019/08/23/cyber-reskilling-grads-kent.aspx>

(Global) ‘Culture Eats Policy for Breakfast’: Rethinking Security Awareness Training

<https://www.darkreading.com/edge/theedge/culture-eats-policy-for-breakfast-rethinking-security-awareness-training-/b/d-id/1335643>

(U.S.) Lessons from Special Operations Command: Cyber training for the multidomain force

<https://www.fifthdomain.com/opinion/2019/07/31/lessons-from-special-operations-command-cyber-training-for-the-multi-domain-force/>

(U.K.) Security by Sector: Young Brits Call for Smartphone Policies and Social Media Lessons in Schools

<https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/blogs/smartphones-social-media-schools/>

PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

ISIS AND FOREIGN FIGHTERS

Guns, Filth and ISIS: Syrian Camp Is ‘Disaster in the Making’

Vivian Yee – The New York Times: 3 September 2019

Deep inside the al-Hawl refugee camp in Syria, a simmering dedication to ISIS remains, causing some to impose ISIS-like rule over parts of the camp.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/09/03/world/middleeast/isis-alhol-camp-syria.html>

The Hunt: What’s the status of ISIS?

J.J. Green – WTOP: 28 August 2019

Since the collapse of its “caliphate,” ISIS has killed more than 400 people in worldwide attacks. On this edition of the Washington D.C.-based WTOP radio program “The Hunt,” national security correspondent J.J. Green interviews Col. Scott Rawlinson, spokesman for the U.S.-led Operation Inherent Resolve in Baghdad, about ISIS’ status and the efforts to neutralize them.

<https://wtop.com/j-j-green-national/2019/08/the-hunt-whats-the-status-of-isis/>

For more on this theme:

Here’s what’s left of ISIS — and why they still pose a major threat

<https://www.businessinsider.com/trump-said-isis-was-finished-threat-2019-8>

Sleeper cell attacks continue in northeast Syria

<https://www.kurdistan24.net/en/news/45a2a3e6-3a85-4ef2-b18a-2b293160b808>

The Heat: Is ISIS regrouping in Syria and Iraq?

<https://america.cgtn.com/2019/08/28/the-heat-is-isis-regrouping-in-syria-and-iraq>

Europe grapples with ISIS returnees and their families

<https://the arabweekly.com/europe-grapples-isis-returnees-and-their-families>

Islamic State in Iraq and Levant Still Global Threat Boasting Affiliated Networks, Residual Wealth, Top Counter-Terrorism Officials Tell Security Council

<https://www.un.org/press/en/2019/sc13931.doc.htm>

Afghanistan: Islamic State Snowballing Danger — Analysis

<https://www.eurasiareview.com/27082019-afghanistan-islamic-state-snowballing-danger-analysis/>

Could Move by US Against IS Trio Weaken Terror Group?

<https://www.voanews.com/extremism-watch/could-move-us-against-trio-weaken-terror-group>

ISIS, Weakened, Finds New Bombers: Cows Wearing Explosive Vests

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/09/04/world/middleeast/isis-iraq-cow-attack.html>

Britain must repatriate Isis fighters, warns US defence secretary

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/sep/06/britain-must-repatriate-isis-fighters-warns-us-defence-secretary>

TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

Burkina Faso: Islamic State and Al-Qaeda's New Sanctuary

Giorgio Cafiero and Daniel Wagner – LobeLog: 3 September 2019

Although there have been some efforts made, not enough attention has been paid to the Sahel region of Africa in terms of counterterrorism. And Burkina Faso is quickly becoming a new battleground for ISIS and al-Qaida.

<https://lobelog.com/burkina-faso-islamic-state-and-al-qaedas-new-sanctuary/>

Al Qaeda Is Ready to Attack You Again

Colin P. Clarke and Charles Lister – Foreign Policy: 4 September 2019

As we remember the 9/11 terror attacks, it's important to look back at where al-Qaida stands today. According to the authors, 18 years later, "the terrorist group has found a new home — and rediscovered its old mission."

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2019/09/04/al-qaeda-is-ready-to-attack-you-again/>

For more on this theme:

Hezbollah's Women's Organizations Unit

<https://www.terrorism-info.org.il/en/hezbollahs-womens-organizations-unit/>

From Latin America to West Africa, Hezbollah's complex web of connections is fuelling its terrorist activity

<https://www.thenational.ae/opinion/comment/from-latin-america-to-west-africa-hezbollah-s-complex-web-of-connections-is-fuelling-its-terrorist-activity-1.904231>

Six countries block UN sanctions against Somalia's Al-Shabaab

<https://news.yahoo.com/six-countries-block-un-sanctions-against-somalias-al-011712263.html>

As US presses negotiations, Taliban promotes training of fighters and attacks

<https://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2019/08/as-us-presses-negotiations-taliban-promotes-training-of-fighters-and-attacks.php>

Al-Shabaab: Information Operations Strategy Overview

<https://smallwarsjournal.com/jrnl/art/al-shabaab-information-operations-strategy-overview>

The Taliban-ISIS Relations Amidst A Peace Deal With US In Afghanistan — Analysis

<https://www.eurasiareview.com/29082019-the-taliban-isis-relations-amidst-a-peace-deal-with-us-in-afghanistan-analysis/>

"If I don't pay, they kill me": Al-Shabab tightens grip on Somalia with growing tax racket

https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/africa/if-i-dont-pay-they-kill-me-al-shabab-tightens-its-grip-on-somalia-with-growing-tax-racket/2019/08/30/81472b38-beac-11e9-a8b0-7ed8a0d5dc5d_story.html

Nigeria: Residents Flee As Boko Haram Attacks Chibok Again

<https://allafrica.com/stories/201909020491.html>

Daesh now is Hamas' latest enemy

<http://www.jordantimes.com/opinion/osama-al-sharif/daesh-now-hamas'-latest-enemy>

RADICALIZATION AND MESSAGING

Can education and opportunity stop extremism?

Deutsche Welle: 5 September 2019

When youths join ISIS and other groups online, it is often under false pretenses. One organization wants to help potential recruits understand the reality of what they are about to undertake through education and opportunity in order to stop the radicalization process.

<https://www.dw.com/en/can-education-and-opportunity-stop-extremism/av-50318904>

For more on this theme:

Workshop highlights role of media in countering violent extremism

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/456542/workshop-highlights-role-of-media-in-countering-violent-extremism/>

Extremism: Can Targeted Violence Prevention Programs Work Locally?

<https://efficientgov.com/blog/2019/08/27/extremism-can-targeted-violence-prevention-programs-work-locally/>

Role of family and religious values in preventing violent extremism

<https://www.thedailystar.net/round-tables/news/role-family-and-religious-values-preventing-violent-extremism-1791259>

Montreal restores funding to anti-radicalization centre

<https://montrealgazette.com/news/local-news/montreal-restores-funding-to-anti-radicalization-centre>

Sri Lanka seeks world expertise in preventing extremism

<http://www.dailynews.lk/2019/09/04/local/195898/sri-lanka-seeks-world-expertise-preventing-extremism>

FINANCING TERRORISM

Terrorists Turn to Bitcoin for Funding, and They're Learning Fast

Nathaniel Popper – The New York Times: 18 August 2019

The cryptocurrency world once again is about to face another blow to its reputation. A recent study by the Middle East Media Research Institute reveals that terrorist groups are using bitcoin and crypto assets to finance their activities.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/08/18/technology/terrorists-bitcoin.html>

For more on this theme:

The world cannot keep turning a blind eye to Qatar's funding of terrorism

<https://www.thenational.ae/opinion/comment/the-world-cannot-keep-turning-a-blind-eye-to-qatar-s-funding-of-terrorism-1.900242>

Cybercrime: Financing Terrorism In Indonesia — Analysis

<https://www.eurasiareview.com/16082019-cybercrime-financing-terrorism-in-indonesia-analysis/>

Counter financing terrorism

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/448680/counter-financing-terrorism/>

TERRORISM AND THE INTERNET

Telegram's upcoming blockchain network: a safe haven for terrorists?

Robert Stevens – Decrypt: 25 August 2019

As Telegram moves toward the release of its TON (Telegram Open Network) blockchain network and associated Gram cryptocurrency, it could be disastrous for counterterrorism efforts.

<https://decrypt.co/8703/telegrams-upcoming-blockchain-network-a-safe-haven-for-terrorists>

YouTube's channel removals soar following hate speech crackdown

Jon Fingas – Engadget: 3 September 2019

After a June policy change, YouTube's tougher stance on hate speech has led to the removal of 17,000 channels and 100,000 videos – both fivefold increases over previous removals.

<https://www.engadget.com/2019/09/03/youtube-hate-speech-channel-removals-soar-5x/>

For more on this theme:

RCMP faces 'significant challenges' in fight against online extremism: documents

<https://globalnews.ca/news/5783742/online-extremism-canada-rcmp-challenges/>

Online Jihadist Propaganda: 2018 in Review

<https://www.hstoday.us/subject-matter-areas/counterterrorism/online-jihadist-propaganda-2018-in-review/>

Australian PM to BAN domains that distribute 'terrorism-level' content

<https://www.tweaktown.com/news/67311/australian-pm-ban-domains-distribute-terrorism-level-content/index.html>

YouTube recommendation algorithm audit uncovers paths to radicalization

<https://venturebeat.com/2019/08/28/youtube-recommendation-algorithm-audit-uncovers-paths-to-radicalization/>

New technologies, artificial intelligence aid fight against global terrorism

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2019/09/1045562>

Kashmir blackout: Counterterrorism and an increasingly challenging role of the internet

<https://www.orfonline.org/expert-speak/kashmir-blackout-counter-terrorism-increasingly-challenging-role-internet-55119/>

8chan owner vows changes in House testimony over links to mass shootings

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-shooting-tech/8chan-owner-vows-changes-in-house-testimony-over-links-to-mass-shootings-idUSKCN1VQ2DU>

Online Extremism: Agents Of Disruption In The Digital Age — Analysis

<https://www.eurasiareview.com/31082019-online-extremism-agents-of-disruption-in-the-digital-age-analysis/>

COUNTERTERRORISM STRATEGIES

EU Security Tsar criticises member states for being “slow” to counter terrorist threats

Martin Banks – The Parliament: 26 August 2019

As Sir Julian King prepares to leave office as European commissioner for the Security Union, he railed against those countries that have been “slow” to enact European Union legislation to counter terrorism. King said, “The work does not stop once measures have been approved at the EU level. It is vital that they are then implemented by the member states fully and in a timely manner. This is the only way to ensure the full benefits can be enjoyed.” He added, “But, unfortunately, this is not always the case.”

<https://www.theparliamentmagazine.eu/articles/news/eu-security-tsar-criticises-member-states-being-“slow”-counter-terrorist-threats>

For more on this theme:

Strategies To Combat Terrorism: A Case Study Of Pakistan — OpEd

<https://www.eurasiareview.com/27082019-strategies-to-combat-terrorism-a-case-study-of-pakistan-oped/>

How Would Brexit Affect Counterterrorism?

<https://www.lawfareblog.com/how-would-brexit-affect-counterterrorism>

Representatives of over 50 countries to attend counter-terrorism conference in Minsk

<https://eng.belta.by/society/view/representatives-of-over-50-countries-to-attend-counter-terrorism-conference-in-minsk-123713-2019/>

Assessing the Goals of U.S. Counterterrorism Efforts in Somalia

<https://smallwarsjournal.com/jrnl/art/assessing-goals-us-counterterrorism-efforts-somalia>

Tracing Indonesia’s Counterterrorism Measures Since the 2002 Bali Bombings

<https://thediplomat.com/2019/09/tracing-indonesias-counterterrorism-measures-since-the-2002-bali-bombings/>

CONSEQUENCE MANAGEMENT

DEALING WITH DISASTERS

As the Amazon Burns, Indonesia Shows World How to Fight Forest Fires

Nithin Coca – OZY: 25 August 2019

As California, Brazil and Europe struggle with forest fires, Indonesia could offer answers. Since the 2015 blazes that destroyed 2.6 million hectares of land, Indonesia has implemented policies aimed at addressing root causes of fires, such as deforestation and poor management of peatlands. This includes creating a peatland restoration agency, fining companies and individuals responsible for fires, extending a deforestation moratorium, and strengthening local enforcement and firefighting capabilities.

<https://www.ozy.com/fast-forward/as-the-amazon-burns-indonesia-shows-world-how-to-fight-forest-fires/96359>

Nigeria Just Won a Complex Victory Over Polio

Jefcoate O'Donnell – Foreign Policy: 21 August 2019

Nigeria is one of three countries where polio poses a grave threat. But that's about to change thanks to a massive grassroots vaccination campaign that has united traditional northern leaders with a network of vaccine advocates, clerics and 20,000 women. The mediators have been vital in winning the trust of the Muslim state of Kano, where inoculation skeptics once held sway, nurturing 80 percent of the world's infections.

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2019/08/21/nigeria-just-won-a-complex-victory-over-polio/>

For more on this theme:

Disaster governance: Regional framework needed

<https://thehimalayantimes.com/opinion/disaster-governance-regional-framework-needed/>

Climate Shocks Could Reverse Gains in Child Malnutrition

<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/climate-shocks-could-reverse-gains-in-child-malnutrition/>

Parts of northern England could run dry by 2035, report reveals

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/aug/29/parts-of-northern-england-could-run-dry-by-2035-report-reveals>

Venezuela's Starvation Crisis Is a Permanent Brain Drain

<https://www.ozy.com/fast-forward/venezuelas-starvation-crisis-is-a-permanent-brain-drain/96340>

'Water women' quench thirst of central India's parched villages

<http://news.trust.org/item/20190827090652-1yyzq>

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