

THE MARSHALL CENTER

transnational weekly



A CURRENT AWARENESS SERVICE FROM THE MARSHALL CENTER

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COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

How Chinese Corruption Spreads Misery Abroad

Jianli Yang and Peter Biar Ajak – The American Interest: 22 September 2020

The structural weaknesses of Chinese megaprojects at home and abroad are rooted in official corruption. Without transparency and accountability, officials in China have become enormously wealthy even when such projects directly jeopardize the safety of their people. These officials are now encouraging their friends abroad to emulate them.

<https://www.the-american-interest.com/2020/09/22/how-chinese-corruption-spreads-misery-abroad/>

Corruption on Epic Scale Robs Future of South Sudan's People, UN Report Finds

Lisa Schlein – Voice of America: 23 September 2020

A United Nations report presents a deeply disturbing picture of South Sudan mired in crooked schemes aimed at enriching the political elite at the expense of millions of impoverished people who are bearing the scars of years of conflict and abuse.

<https://www.voanews.com/africa/south-sudan-focus/corruption-epic-scale-robs-future-south-sudans-people-un-report-finds>

For more on this theme:

Pacific women urged to pursue decision making roles and fight against corruption

<https://www.rnz.co.nz/international/pacific-news/426056/pacific-women-urged-to-pursue-decision-making-roles-and-fight-against-corruption>

US sanctions former Lebanese Government Ministers for link with Hezbollah

<https://www.newdelhitimes.com/us-sanctions-former-lebanese-government-ministers-for-link-with-hezbollah/>

UNODC, FIFA partner to kick out corruption and foster youth development through football

<https://www.chronicle.gi/unodc-fifa-partner-to-kick-out-corruption-and-foster-youth-development-through-football/>

Website exposing military corruption blocked in Myanmar

<https://advox.globalvoices.org/2020/09/11/website-exposing-military-corruption-blocked-in-myanmar/>

Zimbabwe: Cyber Security and Data Protection Bill would restrict anti-corruption watchdogs

<https://www.transparency.org/en/press/zimbabwe-cyber-security-and-data-protection-bill-would-restrict-anti-corruption-watchdogs-1>

Corruption major impediment to investment in Bangladesh: US report

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/national/corruption-major-impediment-to-investment-in-bangladesh-us-report-1600171714>

FIFA Announces Potential Funding of Anti-Corruption Agency Following Scandals

<https://tripod.domains.trincoll.edu/sports/fifa-announces-potential-funding-of-anti-corruption-agency-following-scandals/>

DRUG TRAFFICKING

Gangs still drive Mombasa's narco-city image

Duncan E. Omondi Gumba – Institute for Security Studies: 23 September 2020

Kenya may have disrupted the top tier of the drug trade, but lower-level criminal groups remain active. Gang members as young as 7 years old gather intelligence, while others, mostly teenagers armed with knives and machetes, carry out attacks in different locations.

<https://issafrica.org/iss-today/gangs-still-drive-mombasas-narco-city-image>

For more on this theme:

Migration agency head nabbed for cocaine trafficking

<https://www.defenceweb.co.za/security/human-security/migration-agency-head-nabbed-for-cocaine-trafficking/>

Fighting drug trafficking in the Golden Triangle: a UN Resident Coordinator blog

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/09/1071192>

Tackling the Illicit Drug Trade: Perspectives From Russia

<https://modern diplomacy.eu/2020/09/22/tackling-the-illicit-drug-trade-perspectives-from-russia/>

Protest against drugs trafficking

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/719757-protest-against-drugs-trafficking>

179 Arrested in Massive Global Dark Web Takedown

<https://www.wired.com/story/operation-disruptor-179-arrested-global-dark-web-takedown/>

Overdose Deaths Continue to Soar Across Canada

https://www.vice.com/en_us/article/wxqmjn/overdose-deaths-continue-to-soar-across-canada

The most widely-used drugs in South Africa

<https://businesstech.co.za/news/lifestyle/435579/the-most-widely-used-drugs-in-south-africa/>

How Hezbollah Collaborates With Latin American Drug Cartels

<https://thedispatch.com/p/how-hezbollah-collaborates-with-latin>

TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

New Tool Helps Evaluate Risk of Illegally-Caught Fish Passing Through Port

Peter Horn and Dawn Borg Costanzi – PEW: 24 September 2020

Researchers with The Pew Charitable Trusts have created a new tool for port states, fishing regulators and seafood buyers to determine where illegally caught seafood is most likely to come ashore. By launching the tool on September 24, World Maritime Day, Pew hopes to draw attention to the problem of illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and the potential solutions.

<https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/articles/2020/09/24/new-tool-helps-evaluate-risk-of-illegally-caught-fish-passing-through-port>

Poverty, Joblessness Drives Wildlife Poaching in S. Africa: Study

Agence France-Presse: 24 September 2020

TRAFFIC, the wildlife trade monitoring group, interviewed 73 convicted wildlife offenders incarcerated in 25 of South Africa's correctional centers to learn firsthand the motivations that drove them to take such drastic action and risk arrest.

<https://www.courthousenews.com/poverty-joblessness-drives-wildlife-poaching-in-s-africa-study/>

For more on this theme:

Illegal, unreported and unregulated fisheries cost profits and lives

<https://thehill.com/opinion/finance/516206-unregulated-fisheries-cost-profits-and-lives>

New artificial intelligence could save both elephant and human lives

<https://news.mongabay.com/2020/09/new-artificial-intelligence-could-save-both-elephant-and-human-lives/>

Amazon Indigenous group patrols to expel invading loggers

<https://apnews.com/0f09362b125574cc93532a5b3265597a>

China Named in Ambitious New Anti-Illegal Fishing Strategy for the US Coast Guard

<https://www.rfa.org/english/news/china/usa-fishing-09182020165833.html>

Illegal Logging and Corruption Threaten Cambodia's Last Intact Forest

https://www.rfa.org/english/video?v=1_2cfp0biy

Community-based forest monitoring effective for tracking deforestation in Peru

<https://forestsnews.cifor.org/67464/community-based-forest-monitoring-effective-for-tracking-deforestation-in-peru-2?fnl=>

FEATURE-Peru's 'Wonder Woman' battles illegal gold mining in the Amazon

<https://www.reuters.com/article/peru-gold-wonderwoman/feature-perus-wonder-woman-battles-illegal-gold-mining-in-the-amazon-idUSL5N2GK4C4>

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND IRREGULAR MIGRATION

Congress Urged To Combat Human Trafficking Of Foreign Workers Through Data Transparency

Chantal Da Silva – Forbes: 22 September 2020

A new report published by advocacy group Justice in Motion is calling on the U.S. Congress to use data transparency to combat the trafficking of temporary foreign workers in the U.S. Many temporary foreign workers face the risk of potential exploitation, from modern human slavery to conditions that are like trafficking or that lead to trafficking.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/chantaldasilva/2020/09/22/congress-urged-to-combat-human-trafficking-of-foreign-workers-through-data-transparency/#6edca8b4e3d0>

For more on this theme:

West Africa: How the Pandemic Reshapes Migration

<https://www.ispionline.it/en/pubblicazione/west-africa-how-pandemic-reshapes-migration-27430>

Migration: Framing the “Mini-Surges” During the Pandemic

<https://www.ispionline.it/en/pubblicazione/migration-framing-mini-surges-during-pandemic-27421>

Why South Africa’s new plan to fortify its borders won’t stop irregular migration

<https://theconversation.com/why-south-africas-new-plan-to-fortify-its-borders-wont-stop-irregular-migration-145072>

PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

CYBER STATECRAFT

Ex-UK cyber chief warns of Chinese data grab

Nicholas Vinocur – Politico: 21 September 2020

Chinese companies want to collect massive amounts of data on other countries to train artificial intelligence applications and gain a technological edge over Western rivals, warned Ciaran Martin, the United Kingdom's departing chief of cyber security.

<https://www.politico.eu/article/ex-uk-cyber-chief-warns-on-chinese-data-grab/>

For more on this theme:

(U.S.) FBI hopes a more aggressive cyber strategy will disrupt foreign hackers

<https://www.cyberscoop.com/fbi-cyber-strategy-hackers-tonya-ugoretz/>

(Estonia, U.S.) Army mints new cyber research and development agreement with Estonia

<https://www.c4isrnet.com/cyber/2020/09/21/army-mints-new-cyber-research-and-development-agreement-with-estonia/>

(Australia, U.S.) An Opportunity for Strengthening U.S.-Australian Cyber Cooperation

<https://www.lawfareblog.com/opportunity-strengthening-us-australian-cyber-cooperation>

(U.S.) The White House Adopts Cybersecurity Policy for Activities in Outer Space

<https://www.cfr.org/blog/white-house-adopts-cybersecurity-policy-activities-outer-space>

CYBER ATTACKS, THREATS AND VULNERABILITIES

Russian hackers use fake NATO training docs to breach govt networks

Ax Sharma – Bleeping Computer: 22 September 2020

A Russian hacker group delivered a hard-to-detect strand of Zebrocy Delphi malware under the pretense of providing NATO training materials.

<https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/security/russian-hackers-use-fake-nato-training-docs-to-breach-govt-networks/>

For more on this theme:

(U.S.) Government software provider Tyler Technologies hit by ransomware

<https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/security/government-software-provider-tyler-technologies-hit-by-ransomware/>

(Russia, Germany) Fatal Hospital Hack Linked to Russia

<https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/news/fatal-hospital-hack-linked-to/>

(Global) Video gamers barraged with cyber attacks

<https://www.computerweekly.com/news/252489465/Video-gamers-barraged-with-cyber-attacks>

CYBER CRIME

Amid Iranian hacker crackdown, CISOs should prep for retaliation

Joe Uchill – SC Magazine: 21 September 2020

After significant pressure from the United States against Iranian hackers, an increase in Iranian threats seems a likely retaliation.

<https://www.scmagazine.com/home/security-news/malware/as-us-cracks-down-on-iranian-hackers-security-leaders-should-prep-for-retaliation/>

For more on this theme:

(Russia) Ransomware gang targets Russian businesses in rare coordinated attacks

<https://www.zdnet.com/article/ransomware-gang-targets-russian-businesses-in-rare-coordinated-attacks/>

(Global) Why Cybercrime Spikes Around Major Events And Unrest

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/forbestechcouncil/2020/09/23/why-cybercrime-spikes-around-major-events-and-unrest/#1936819e6ebe>

(India, China, Global) India's Cybercrime and APT Operations on the Rise

<https://www.darkreading.com/threat-intelligence/indias-cybercrime-and-apt-operations-on-the-rise/d/d-id/1338999>

CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING

Ukraine's booming IT sector can drive positive change

Yuliya Rimsky and Filip Sasic – Atlantic Council: 23 September 2020

Ukraine's thriving information technology industry is an increasingly important driver of economic growth. With the right support, it can also have a transformative effect that will further strengthen Ukrainian democracy and consolidate the country's Euro-Atlantic trajectory.

<https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/ukrainealert/ukraines-booming-it-sector-can-drive-positive-change/>

For more on this theme:

(U.S.) Siemens USA launches cybersecurity analytics lab to help protect operational technology

<https://www.securitymagazine.com/articles/93378-siemens-usa-launches-cybersecurity-analytics-lab-to-help-protect-operational-technology>

(U.S.) Trump officials hint at update for US maritime cybersecurity

<https://www.cyberscoop.com/trump-administration-national-maritime-cybersecurity-strategy/>

(Australia) Australia's new cyber legion to ward off 'state based' attacks

<https://www.idgconnect.com/article/3583455/australia-s-new-cyber-legion-to-ward-off-state-based-attacks.html>

CYBER PROTECTION OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Strengthening the Cyber Resilience of North American Energy Systems

Paul Stockton – The Wilson Center: September 2020

Given the increasingly severe threats to electric and natural gas systems and the need for cross-border coordination, this paper argues that the nations of North America should not only improve infrastructure security within their own borders, but also launch new collaborative efforts to bolster their shared resilience against cyber attacks.

<https://www.wilsoncenter.org/publication/strengthening-cyber-resilience-north-american-energy-systems>

For more on this theme:

(U.S.) FBI, DHS say they have ‘not identified’ hacking schemes to change vote tallies ahead of U.S. election

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-election-cyber/fbi-dhs-say-they-have-not-identified-hacking-schemes-to-change-vote-tallies-ahead-of-u-s-election-idUSKCN26F32S>

(U.S., China, Russia, Iran) House approves legislation making hacking voting systems a federal crime

<https://thehill.com/policy/cybersecurity/517462-house-approves-legislation-making-hacking-voting-systems-a-federal-crime>

(Global) Being Cyber Resilient Is Critical for the Maritime Industry

<https://www.tripwire.com/state-of-security/featured/cyber-resilient-critical-maritime-industry/>

CYBER EXERCISES AND TRAINING

Twitter prepares for US election with new security training, penetration tests

Catalin Cimpanu – ZDNet: 24 September 2020

To prevent a repeat of the July 2020 hack, Twitter said it’s been bolstering internal security by requiring staff to go through additional security training, engaging in penetration tests, and by deploying hardware security keys to all employees.

<https://www.zdnet.com/article/twitter-prepares-for-us-election-with-new-security-training-penetration-tests/>

For more on this theme:

(U.S.) Cybersecurity Talent Gaps Are Bigger Than We Thought — And Here’s How To Solve Them

<https://incyberdefense.com/daily-brief/cybersecurity-talent-gaps-are-bigger-than-we-thought-and-heres-how-to-solve-them/>

(U.S.) Cyber Airmen Trained for a China-Taiwan Conflict That Unfolds Online

<https://www.airforcemag.com/cyber-airmen-trained-for-a-china-taiwan-conflict-that-unfolds-online/>

(U.S.) Cyber Shield 2020 features fully virtual training exercise during COVID-19 pandemic

<https://www.dvidshub.net/news/378523/cyber-shield-2020-features-fully-virtual-training-exercise-during-covid-19-pandemic>

PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

ISIS AND FOREIGN FIGHTERS

Southeast Asian Analysts: IS Steps Up Recruitment in Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines

Noah Lee, Tia Asmara, Ronna Nirmala, Mark Navales and Shailaja Neelakantan – Benar News: 23 September 2020

There are signs that the Islamic State is trying to regroup after its territorial defeat in Syria last year through increased efforts to attract new members in Malaysia, other parts of Southeast Asia, the Middle East and North Africa, said Mizan Aslam, a counterterrorism expert at Universiti Perlis Malaysia. According to Aslam, the group is recruiting and indoctrinating supporters through online platforms such as Facebook.

https://www.benarnews.org/english/news/indonesian/SEA_ISIS-Threat-09232020163502.html

Stepping Out from the Shadows: The Interrogation of the Islamic State's Future Caliph

Daniel Milton and Muhammad al-'Ubaydi – Combating Terrorism Center at West Point – September 2020

In October 2019, the Islamic State announced its new leader. The authors used three declassified interrogation reports from early 2008, when Amir Muhammad Sa'id 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Mawla was detained by U.S. military forces in Iraq, to provide insight into his early background.

<https://ctc.usma.edu/stepping-out-from-the-shadows-the-interrogation-of-the-islamic-states-future-caliph/>

For more on this theme:

Iraqi, Peshmerga Forces to Step Up Anti-IS Joint Effort

<https://www.voanews.com/extremism-watch/iraqi-peshmerga-forces-step-anti-joint-effort>

Repatriating ISIS Family Members: A North Macedonia Model?

<https://www.justsecurity.org/72420/repatriating-isis-family-members-a-north-macedonian-model/>

Islamic State claims killing French aid workers, clashes with al Qaeda in the Sahel

<https://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2020/09/islamic-state-claims-killing-french-aid-workers-clashes-with-al-qaeda-in-the-sahel.php>

British Give U.S. Evidence Against ISIS 'Beatles,' Clearing Way for Trial

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/09/22/us/politics/isis-beatles.html>

Families of Missing IS Victims Beg for Answers as New Mass Graves Discovered in Northeast Syria

<https://www.voanews.com/extremism-watch/families-missing-victims-beg-answers-new-mass-graves-discovered-northeast-syria>

TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

Boko Haram Arms Stockpiling Indicates Long-Term Threat

Eric G. Berman – Council on Foreign Relations: 18 September 2020

The true scale and scope of materiel Boko Haram has seized is difficult to ascertain. Boko Haram has reason to inflate its military successes, and governments from the region have little incentive to publicize their losses. What is not in doubt is that these attacks have netted Boko Haram millions of rounds of ammunition, thousands of assault rifles and assorted firearms, and hundreds of military vehicles, including armored tanks and self-propelled artillery.

<https://www.cfr.org/blog/boko-haram-arms-stockpiling-indicates-long-term-threat>

Al-Shabaab's Improvised Explosive Device Supply Chain Gambit in Somalia

Peter Kirechu – War on the Rocks: 22 September 2020

The COVID-19 pandemic has upended global supply chains, impeding both the licit economy and the criminal underworld. These disruptions have been visible in the illicit narcotics and wildlife trades, but they have also created opportunities in conflict zones where militant groups – including al-Shabaab – sense an opportunity to expand their writs of influence through violent attacks against beleaguered state governments.

<https://warontherocks.com/2020/09/al-shabaabs-improvised-explosive-device-supply-chain-gambit-in-somalia/>

For more on this theme:

The Islamic State in Afghanistan Is Down, but Not Out

<https://www.rand.org/blog/2020/09/the-islamic-state-in-afghanistan-is-down-but-not-out.html>

Is Ayman al-Zawahiri Really the Future of Al-Qaida?

<https://www.rand.org/blog/2020/09/is-ayman-al-zawahiri-really-the-future-of-al-qaida.html>

How Serious Are Threats to the U.S. Homeland?

<https://www.lawfareblog.com/how-serious-are-threats-us-homeland>

The American 'jihad' was a failure — for those who joined, it was a path to destruction

<https://thehill.com/opinion/national-security/517542-the-american-jihad-was-a-failure-for-those-who-joined-it-was-a-path>

The Crisis Within Jihadism: The Islamic State's Puritanism vs. al-Qa`ida's Populism

<https://ctc.usma.edu/the-crisis-within-jihadism-the-islamic-states-puritanism-vs-al-qaidas-populism/>

Somalia: Al-Shabab attacks intensify as election looms

<https://www.dw.com/en/somalia-al-shabab-attacks-intensify-as-election-looms/a-54980396>

UN General Assembly: Saudi Arabia's King Salman calls for Hezbollah to be disarmed

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/1738936/saudi-arabia>

Taliban kills 28 police officials as Doha peace talks continue

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/9/23/taliban-kill-28-police-in-southern-afghanistan-officials>

RADICALIZATION AND MESSAGING

Are Counter Violent Extremism Interventions Effective?

Todd C. Helmus and Elizabeth Bodine-Baron – Rand: 11 September 2020

Government efforts to counter the propaganda and radicalization that lead to violent extremism are becoming more common around the world, but there's little research on whether such programs work.

<https://www.rand.org/blog/2020/09/are-counter-violent-extremism-interventions-effective.html>

For more on this theme:

Covid-19 and the threat from Islamic State's online and 'family' networks

<https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/covid-19-and-the-threat-from-islamic-states-online-and-family-networks/>

Think-Tank Urges Indonesia to Add Female Prison Officers

<https://www.benarnews.org/english/news/indonesian/ipac-report-09232020165326.html>

Right-wing extremists using Islamic State tactics to recruit, ASIO warns, amid spike in surveillance

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-09-22/right-wing-extremists-asio-islamic-state-tactics/12690002>

Contemporary Counterterrorism: Engaging in Deradicalization and Counterradicalization

<https://gppreview.com/2020/09/21/contemporary-counterterrorism-engaging-deradicalization-counterradicalization/>

IRREGULAR WARFARE: PROXY FORCES

Iran Proxies Appear Emboldened by US Drawdown Decision

Namo Abdulla – Voice of America: 19 September 2020

The U.S. announcement that it would withdraw more than 2,000 of its troops from Iraq in September appears to have emboldened Iran-backed Shiite militias, with some groups vowing to keep up their fight against the remaining American troops in the country.

<https://www.voanews.com/extremism-watch/iran-proxies-appear-emboldened-us-drawdown-decision>

For more on this theme:

2 Recent Alleged Episodes of Chinese Espionage Raise Worrying — and Difficult — Questions

<https://thediplomat.com/2020/09/two-recent-alleged-episodes-of-chinese-espionage-raise-worrying-and-difficult-questions/>

IRREGULAR WARFARE: DISINFORMATION AND MALIGN INFLUENCE

The EU's Role in Fighting Disinformation: Crafting A Disinformation Framework

James Pamment – Carnegie: 24 September 2020

European Union officials must coordinate better to mount an effective response to disinformation campaigns and influence operations throughout Europe.

<https://carnegieendowment.org/2020/09/24/eu-s-role-in-fighting-disinformation-crafting-disinformation-framework-pub-82720>

For more on this theme:

U.S. sanctions individuals, companies linked to Yevgeniy Prigozhin

https://www.upi.com/Top_News/US/2020/09/24/US-sanctions-individuals-companies-linked-to-Yevgeniy-Prigozhin/1231600918090/

Testing ahead of U.S. elections reveals struggle to quell disinformation

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-election-disinformation/testing-ahead-of-u-s-elections-reveals-struggle-to-quell-disinformation-idUSKCN26E1L7>

COVID-19 Provides New Material for Russian Anti-EU Disinformation

<https://balkaninsight.com/2020/09/22/covid-19-provides-new-material-for-russian-anti-eu-disinformation/>

CONSEQUENCE MANAGEMENT

CORONAVIRUS AROUND THE WORLD

Rising Hunger: Facing a Food-Insecure World

Amelia Cheatham, Claire Felter and Sabine Baumgartner – Council on Foreign Relations: 21 September 2020

Global food insecurity has surged amid the coronavirus pandemic, threatening to worsen humanitarian crises and spur further mass migration. Many without access to food flee home in search of it. The United Nations' World Food Programme estimates that for every 1% increase in hunger, there is a 2% increase in migration.

<https://www.cfr.org/article/rising-hunger-facing-food-insecure-world>

For more on this theme:

The Digital Divide and COVID-19

https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RRA134-3.html

Russia Claims Coronavirus Under Control, Sends Students to School

<https://www.wilsoncenter.org/blog-post/russia-claims-coronavirus-under-control-sends-students-school>

COVID-19 Air Traffic Visualization

https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RRA248-6.html

Financing a comprehensive and equitable COVID-19 response

<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/future-development/2020/09/18/financing-a-comprehensive-and-equitable-covid-19-response/>

Beating COVID-19 in Africa Begins With National Labs

<https://www.cfr.org/blog/beating-covid-19-africa-begins-national-labs>

Myanmar: Covid-19 second wave deadlier than the first?

<https://www.orfonline.org/expert-speak/myanmar-covid19-second-wave-deadlier-first/>

COVID19: Understanding the Latin American Scenario

<https://www.orfonline.org/expert-speak/covid19-understanding-the-latin-american-scenario/>

Mitigating COVID19 Impacts: Exploring Solutions for Caribbean Nations

<https://www.orfonline.org/expert-speak/mitigating-covid19-impacts-exploring-solutions-for-caribbean-nations/>

Macroeconomic outcomes and COVID-19: A progress report

<https://www.brookings.edu/bpea-articles/macroeconomic-outcomes-and-covid-19-a-progress-report/>

Southeast Asian Leaders Highlight COVID-19 Concerns at Virtual UN General Assembly

https://www.benarnews.org/english/news/malaysian/MY_ID_PH_UN_COVID-09222020170408.html