

THE MARSHALL CENTER

transnational weekly



A CURRENT AWARENESS SERVICE FROM THE MARSHALL CENTER

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COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

Tracking the Trillions: 6-Month Checkup on IMF's Covid-19 Emergency Aid

*Sarah Saadoun, M. Emilia Berazategui and Simon Taylor – Human Rights Watch:
28 September 2020*

The coronavirus pandemic has exacerbated the already staggering levels of economic inequality in many countries around the world. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has lent \$89 billion to over 80 countries since March. Six months into the pandemic, massive amounts have been lost due to corruption or malfeasance. Unsurprisingly, an increase in corruption is linked to decreased spending on health and education and increased inequality.

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/09/28/tracking-trillions-6-month-checkup-imfs-covid-19-emergency-aid>

Lebanon passes 'historic' anti-corruption law amid public outcry for transparency

Sunniva Rose – The National: 1 October 2020

For the first time in Lebanon's history, ministers and members of Parliament can be put on trial for illicit enrichment

<https://www.thenational.ae/world/mena/lebanon-passes-historic-anti-corruption-law-amid-public-outcry-for-transparency-1.1086851>

For more on this theme:

Ren Zhiqiang: Outspoken ex-real estate tycoon gets 18 years jail

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-china-54245327>

Coronavirus corruption in Kenya: Officials and businesspeople targeted

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-54278417>

Iraqi government steps up fight against corruption

<https://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2020/09/iraq-government-corruption-economy.html>

Curbing Corruption in the Midst of a Pandemic is More Important Than Ever

<https://moderndiplomacy.eu/2020/09/24/curbing-corruption-in-the-midst-of-a-pandemic-is-more-important-than-ever/>

Zelensky urges Rada to approve anti-corruption strategy for 2020-2024

<https://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/691247.html>

Corruption puts the future of the European Union at risk

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/justice-home-affairs/opinion/corruption-puts-the-future-of-the-european-union-at-risk/>

Preventing corruption of parliamentarians, judges and prosecutors: France can do better

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/portal/-/preventing-corruption-of-parliamentarians-judges-and-prosecutors-france-can-do-better>

Corruption failures also highlighted in rule of law report

<https://euobserver.com/justice/149594>

DRUG TRAFFICKING

Could an Ex-Money Launderer For Drug Traffickers Be the Next President of Honduras?

Jeff Ernst – VICE: 1 October 2020

Yani Rosenthal – a former legislator who served nearly three years in a U.S. federal prison for money laundering connected to drug trafficking – got a hero's welcome when he arrived home in Honduras in August. Now he wants to run for president.

<https://www.vice.com/en/article/v7g9ej/could-an-ex-money-launderer-for-drug-trafficking-be-the-next-president-of-honduras>

British police raid drug gangs as COVID-19 fuels child trafficking fears

Kieran Guilbert – Reuters: 25 September 2020

Vulnerable teenagers are moving crack cocaine and heroin from urban to rural areas. Success should not be measured by the number of children arrested, but by the size of the market – which is thriving.

<https://news.trust.org/item/20200925093132-n8dm1/>

For more on this theme:

Faced with depleting supplies, drug traffickers step up violence against police in southern Spain

https://english.elpais.com/spanish_news/2020-10-01/faced-with-depleting-supplies-drug-traffickers-step-up-violence-against-police-in-southern-spain.html

Egypt showcases national efforts to combat drug trafficking, abuse

<https://menafn.com/1100875470/Egypt-showcases-national-efforts-to-combat-drug-trafficking-abuse>

Costa Rica Passes Law to Destroy Illegal Runways on Private Property

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/brief/costa-rica-runways-private-property/>

Panama's Bocas del Toro Archipelago New Cocaine Seizure Hotspot

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/brief/panama-cocaine-bocas-del-toro/>

Demystifying the drug menace: Insights from convicted drug sellers

<https://eureporter.co/frontpage/2020/09/29/demystifying-the-drug-menace-insights-from-convicted-drug-sellers/>

TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

Reptiles: one in three species traded online – and 75% aren't protected by international law

Tanya Wyatt – The Conversation: 29 September 2020

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) is the world's mechanism for protecting wildlife in global markets. But a new study has revealed that more than 75% of reptiles traded online are species not covered by CITES.

<https://theconversation.com/reptiles-one-in-three-species-traded-online-and-75-arent-protected-by-international-law-147122>

For more on this theme:

Emerging Europe's primeval forests are in danger

<https://emerging-europe.com/news/emerging-europes-primeval-forests-are-in-danger/>

Life still precarious for pangolins despite Vietnam's illegal trade crackdown

<https://phys.org/news/2020-09-life-precarious-pangolins-vietnam-illegal.html>

Why Oil Theft Spread Across Latin America During Pandemic

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/analysis/oil-theft-latin-america-pandemic/>

IMO to develop guidelines for the prevention and suppression of wildlife trafficking

<https://www.traffic.org/news/imo-to-develop-guidelines-for-the-prevention-and-suppression-of-wildlife-trafficking/>

ACAMS and WWF Launch Tool to End Illegal Wildlife Trade

<https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20201002005171/en/ACAMS-and-WWF-Launch-Tool-to-End-Illegal-Wildlife-Trade>

COVID-19 Sees Increase in Wildlife Poaching in Southern Africa

<https://www.fairplanet.org/story/covid-19-sees-increase-in-wildlife-poaching-in-southern-africa/>

Conservation agencies devise ways to combat illegal wildlife trade

<https://africasciencenews.org/conservation-agencies-devise-ways-to-combat-illegal-wildlife-trade/>

Harnessing online tactics to save a species

<https://phys.org/news/2020-09-harnessing-online-tactics-species.html>

Tourism helps wildlife conservation – but we need to be thinking much bigger

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/coronavirus-environment-wildlife-tourism-africa-conservation-illegal-trade-b624014.html>

How A Beloved Gemstone Became A Symbol Of Environmental Tragedy In Myanmar

<https://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2020/09/29/915604532/how-a-beloved-gemstone-became-a-symbol-of-environmental-tragedy-in-myanmar>

Indonesia's new intelligence hub wields data in the war on illegal fishing

<https://news.mongabay.com/2020/09/indonesias-new-intelligence-hub-wields-data-in-the-war-on-illegal-fishing/>

ORGANIZED CRIME

How Organized Crime Networks Are Using Drones to Their Advantage

Katie Jones – InSight Crime: 29 September 2020

Criminal groups increasingly deploying drones – for purposes ranging from surveillance to reported armed attacks of rivals – has provoked a strong government response in Mexico.

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/brief/drones-narcotrafficking-surveillance/>

For more on this theme:

Lost Property? Narco-Asset Seizures in Mexico Face Renewed Challenges

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/brief/lost-property-asset-seizures-mexico/>

COVID-19 and Illicit Trade: When Organized Crime and Terrorists Profit from the Pandemic

<https://www.hstoday.us/subject-matter-areas/counterterrorism/covid-19-and-illicit-trade-when-organized-crime-and-terrorists-profit-from-the-pandemic/>

PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

INTERNET FREEDOM

Good journalism is not always enough, it must also be accessible

Deutsche Welle: 28 September 2020

On the occasion of the first United Nations Access to Information Day, a Deutsche Welle internet freedom expert, Oliver Linow, takes a look at the importance of access to information.

<https://www.dw.com/en/good-journalism-is-not-always-enough-it-must-also-be-accessible/a-55081627>

For more on this theme:

(China, U.S., Global) 'Page not found': what happens when diplomatic statements meet the WeChat censor

<https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/page-not-found-what-happens-when-diplomatic-statements-meet-the-wechat-censor/>

(Russia) Russia accuses Twitter of censorship after state-owned news agency vanishes from search results

<https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2020/sep/29/russia-accuses-twitter-of-censorship-after-state-o/>

(Vietnam) Censorship fears grow in Vietnam as cybersecurity law looms

<https://www.thestar.com.my/tech/tech-news/2020/10/01/censorship-fears-grow-in-vietnam-as-cybersecurity-law-looms>

PRIVACY AND SECURITY

Transfer of EU user data to the United States halted

Richard J. Cordes – Atlantic Council: 25 September 2020

Ireland's Data Protection Commission, a European Union privacy regulator, has ordered Facebook to suspend transfers of EU user data to the United States.

<https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/geotech-cues/transfer-of-eu-user-data-to-the-united-states-halted/>

For more on this theme:

(China, Global) China's Draft Data Security Law: A Practical Review

<https://thediplomat.com/2020/09/chinas-draft-data-security-law-a-practical-review/>

(Global) A Few Questions on Cybersecurity and the Cloud

<https://www.lawfareblog.com/few-questions-cybersecurity-and-cloud>

(France) France's data privacy watchdog beefs up consent rights over ad trackers

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-france-privacy/frances-data-privacy-watchdog-beefs-up-consent-rights-over-ad-trackers-idUSKBN26M631>

CYBER STATECRAFT

Cyberattack could trigger Article 5 response, NATO deputy secretary warns

Ed Adamczyk – UPI: 28 September 2020

NATO is adapting to security threats in cyberspace despite vulnerabilities exploited in the COVID-19 pandemic, according to NATO Deputy Secretary-General Mircea Geoana, who noted that NATO will establish a Cyberspace Operations Center in its command structure. He added that a military cyber attack on a country qualifies as a cause for all NATO nations to come to its aid.

<https://www.upi.com/Defense-News/2020/09/28/Cyberattack-could-trigger-Article-5-response-NATO-deputy-secretary-warns/9741601318459/>

For more on this theme:

(U.S., Russia, Global) Microsoft Says Russia Behind Most Nation-State Cyber-Attacks

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-09-29/microsoft-says-russia-behind-most-nation-state-hacking-attempts>

(North Korea) North Korea's evolving cyber warfare strategy

<https://www.eastasiaforum.org/2020/09/24/north-koreas-evolving-cyber-warfare-strategy/>

(China) Chinese Ministry of State Security-Affiliated Cyber Threat Actor Activity

<https://us-cert.cisa.gov/ncas/alerts/aa20-258a>

CYBER ATTACKS, THREATS AND VULNERABILITIES

Major hospital system struggling to recover computer network operations after cyberattack

Shelby Lin Erdman and Andrea Kane – CNN: 29 September 2020

Universal Health Services, a hospital chain with over 400 locations in the United States and the United Kingdom, fell victim to an “information technology security incident” (e.g., a cyber attack) on September 27, according to a statement released by the organization. The attack is the largest of its kind on a medical facility in U.S. history.

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/09/29/health/uhs-cyberattack-ops-down/index.html>

For more on this theme:

(Iran, U.S.) U.S. targets Iranian regime's global cyberattacks

<https://share.america.gov/u-s-targets-iranian-regimes-global-cyberattacks/>

(Hungary) Hungarian banks, telecoms services briefly hit by cyber attack: Magyar Telekom

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-hungary-cyber-idUSKBN26HOCB>

(U.S.) Suspicious logins reported after ransomware attack on US govt contractor

<https://www.zdnet.com/article/suspicious-logins-rats-reported-after-ransomware-attack-on-us-govt-contractor/>

CYBER CRIME

Ransomware Guide

Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency – U.S. Department of Homeland Security: 30 September 2020

The U.S. Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency and the Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center have released the “Ransomware Guide,” a one-stop resource with best practices and ways to prevent, protect and/or respond to a ransomware attack.

<https://www.cisa.gov/publication/ransomware-guide>

For more on this theme:

(U.S.) House approves legislation to send cybersecurity resources to state, local governments

<https://thehill.com/policy/cybersecurity/519038-house-approves-legislation-to-sent-cybersecurity-resources-to-state>

(North Korea, Global) North Korea has tried to hack 11 officials of the UN Security Council

<https://www.zdnet.com/article/north-korea-has-tried-to-hack-11-officials-of-the-un-security-council/>

(Global) Will cyber crime kill the automated vehicle?

<https://www.automotiveworld.com/articles/will-cyber-crime-kill-the-automated-vehicle/>

CYBER PROTECTION OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Distributed Denial-of-Service Attacks Could Hinder Access to Voting Information, Would Not Prevent Voting

Homeland Security Today: 30 September 2020

The U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation and the U.S. Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency are raising awareness that distributed denial of service attacks on election infrastructure can hinder access to voting information but would not prevent people from voting.

<https://www.hstoday.us/subject-matter-areas/infrastructure-security/distributed-denial-of-service-attacks-could-hinder-access-to-voting-information-would-not-prevent-voting/>

For more on this theme:

(U.S.) House passes bills to secure energy sector against cyberattacks

<https://thehill.com/policy/cybersecurity/518816-house-passes-bills-to-secure-energy-sector-against-cyberattacks>

(U.S., Global) Experts: Maritime Industry Remains Vulnerable to Cyber Attacks

<https://news.usni.org/2020/09/28/experts-maritime-industry-remains-vulnerable-to-cyber-attacks>

(U.S.) Keeping US space interests secure from cyber threats

<https://federalnewsnetwork.com/cybersecurity/2020/09/keeping-us-space-interests-secure-from-cyber-threats/>

Secret Service looks to outsiders to boost financial cybercrime probes

Shannon Vavra – Cyberscoop: 23 September 2020

Sometimes overlooked in the great cyber security battle is the role of the U.S. Secret Service. Drawing on its heritage of stopping currency counterfeiting, the Secret Service investigates cyber-enabled financial crimes of all sorts. Now it has the help of an outside group called the Cyber Investigations Advisory Board.

<https://www.cyberscoop.com/secret-service-ciab-cyber-command/>

For more on this theme:

(U.S.) Worried About Chinese Backdoors, Lord Pushes For New Tech Strategy

<https://breakingdefense.com/2020/09/worried-about-chinese-backdoors-lord-pushes-for-new-tech-strategy/>

(Malaysia) IBM to continue playing nation-building role through public-private partnerships

<https://www.nst.com.my/business/2020/09/628598/ibm-continue-playing-nation-building-role-through-public-private>

(U.S.) FBI cyber strategy maximizes deterrence through agency partnerships

<https://federalnewsnetwork.com/cybersecurity/2020/10/fbi-cyber-strategy-maximizes-deterrence-through-agency-partnerships/>

ISIS AND FOREIGN FIGHTERS

Facing IS, last embattled Sikhs, Hindus leave Afghanistan

Tameem Akhgar – The Associated Press: 27 September 2020

With growing threats from a local ISIS affiliate, many Sikhs and Hindus are choosing to leave Afghanistan. Once a thriving community of as many as 250,000 members, fewer than 700 remain.

<https://apnews.com/article/afghanistan-discrimination-islamic-state-group-kabul-archive-b310aecece-22454cc5918756e245810c>

Extremists behind two plots a month in Europe since ISIS defeat

Paul Peachey – The National: 27 September 2020

Jihadists have carried out or attempted a terror attack every two weeks in Europe following the fall of the Islamic State, according to the United Kingdom-based Counter Extremism Group.

<https://www.thenational.ae/world/europe/extremists-behind-two-plots-a-month-in-europe-since-isis-defeat-1.1084462>

For more on this theme:

Mozambique asks EU for help in tackling insurgency

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-mozambique-insurgency-eu/mozambique-asks-eu-for-help-in-tackling-insurgency-idUSKCN26E23G>

Relatives of Bosnians Held in Syria Expect Their Return

<https://balkaninsight.com/2020/09/24/relatives-of-bosnians-held-in-syria-expect-their-return/>

Could the Islamic State – Khorasan Province Be the Next Chapter of Global Terrorism?

<https://thediplomat.com/2020/09/could-the-islamic-state-khorasan-province-be-the-next-chapter-of-global-terrorism/>

The Failure to Repatriate Foreign Fighters Is A Gift to ISIS

<https://nationalinterest.org/feature/failure-repatriate-foreign-fighters-gift-isis-169226>

Iraq: dozens of Christian manuscripts stolen by ISIS recovered in Mosul

<https://www.thenational.ae/world/mena/iraq-dozens-of-christian-manuscripts-stolen-by-isis-recovered-in-mosul-1.1082103>

Italy repatriates female Islamic fighter and her four children

<https://apnews.com/article/arrests-milan-italy-archive-syria-23674fc6d9ac7ef19296576999f84265>

Islamic State expanding its presence in South Asia under Pakistan's patronage, says experts

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/pakistan/islamic-state-expanding-its-presence-in-south-asia-under-pakistans-patronage-say-experts/articleshow/78408854.cms>

ISIS Exploiting Coronavirus Pandemic, Counter-Terror Experts Warn

<https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/isis-exploiting-coronavirus-pandemic-counter-terror-experts-warn-644259>

A closer look at Congo's Islamist rebels

Daniel Fahey and Judith Verweijen – The Washington Post: 30 September 2020

Since the start of 2019, more than 1,000 civilians have been killed in and around the Beni region of the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). These atrocities have been largely blamed on the Allied Democratic Forces, an Islamist rebel group originally from Uganda that has been active in the DRC since 1995. However, research institutes, journalists and other close observers of the situation in Beni suggest that other armed groups and government forces are also involved in the violence.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2020/09/30/closer-look-congos-islamic-rebels/>

Hezbollah's Precision Guided Missile project under renewed scrutiny

Joe Truzman – FDD's Long War Journal: 1 October 2020

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told the United Nations General Assembly that Iran-backed Lebanese militia Hezbollah is operating a missile factory in Beirut just meters away from a gas company.

<https://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2020/10/hezbollahs-precision-guided-missile-project-under-renewed-scrutiny.php>

For more on this theme:

Is Pakistan's Influence Over the Afghan Taliban Weakening?

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/middle-east-watch/pakistan-s-influence-over-afghan-taliban-weakening-169346>

Philippine Military: Abu Sayyaf Executed Indonesian Hostage

<https://www.benarnews.org/english/news/philippine/Abu-Sayyaf-hostage-10012020145411.html>

Widow of Filipino Militant Now Undergoing Deradicalization in Indonesia

<https://www.benarnews.org/english/news/indonesian/widow-talks-09302020174910.html>

Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan Factions Reunited for 'Holy War' Against Islamabad

<https://jamestown.org/program/tehreek-e-taliban-pakistan-factions-reunited-for-holy-war-against-islamabad/>

Nigeria's Boko Haram crisis: 'Bomb on donkey' used to ambush Borno governor

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-54331260>

Terrorism harbors at sea: Snapshot of Maritime Terrorism

<https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=feb75749-fb0a-4149-bf2b-a1fd87c52ddb>

Paris Police Suspect Terrorism In Attack Near Former 'Charlie Hebdo' Offices

<https://www.npr.org/2020/09/25/916842330/paris-police-suspect-terrorism-in-attack-near-former-charlie-hebdo-offices>

Interception: Detering Radicalisation During the Coronavirus Pandemic

Alex Guittard, Jared Shurin and Lilla Schumicky-Logan – Royal United Services Institute: 25 September 2020

Communication, especially during and after the coronavirus pandemic, is key to building communities that are resilient against violent extremism and prevent radicalization.

<https://rusi.org/commentary/interception-detering-radicalisation-during-coronavirus-pandemic>

For more on this theme:

How Effective Are Mentorship Interventions? Assessing the Evidence Base for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism

<https://rusi.org/publication/occasional-papers/how-effective-are-mentorship-interventions-assessing-evidence-base>

A Mentorship Manual for Countering Violent Extremism in Kenya

<https://rusi.org/publication/other-publications/mentorship-manual-countering-violent-extremism-kenya>

UN and partners stress the role of sport in preventing violent extremism and radicalisation

<https://www.newdelhitimes.com/un-and-partners-stress-the-role-of-sport-in-preventing-violent-extremism-and-radicalisation/>

IRREGULAR WARFARE: DISINFORMATION AND MALIGN INFLUENCE

The EU's Role in the Fight Against Disinformation: Developing Policy Interventions for the 2020s

James Pamment – Carnegie: 30 September 2020

The European Union needs a disinformation strategy that is adaptable and built to last.

<https://carnegieendowment.org/2020/09/30/eu-s-role-in-fight-against-disinformation-developing-policy-interventions-for-2020s-pub-82821>

For more on this theme:

FBI produces film on Chinese spy recruitment threat

<https://amp-washingtontimes-com.cdn.ampproject.org/c/amp.washingtontimes.com/news/2020/sep/30/fbi-produces-film-chinese-spy-recruitment-threat/>

Exclusive: Russian operation masqueraded as right-wing news site to target U.S. voters – sources

<https://www.reuters.com/article/usa-election-russia-disinformation/exclusive-russian-operation-masqueraded-as-right-wing-news-site-to-target-u-s-voters-sources-idUSKBN26M5OP>

Establishing resistance to overseas influence

<https://www.japantimes.co.jp/opinion/2020/09/27/commentary/world-commentary/establishing-resistance-overseas-influence/>

CONSEQUENCE MANAGEMENT

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CORONAVIRUS AROUND THE WORLD

How Alleviating Global Poverty Can Prevent Future Pandemics

Kayleigh Crabb – BORGEN Magazine: 26 September 2020

The world is highly interconnected and the COVID-19 pandemic serves as a forceful reminder. An outbreak in one place in the world can quickly spread across the globe. Alleviating global poverty will help prevent future pandemics. It is the critical piece of the puzzle in building global resiliency and stopping this and any other pandemic.

<https://www.borgenmagazine.com/alleviating-poverty/>

For more on this theme:

Fifth Lawsuit Filed Against Wuhan Authorities For COVID-19 Coverup

https://www.theepochtimes.com/fifth-lawsuit-filed-against-wuhan-authorities-for-covid-19-cover-up_3513668.html

Crisis? What crisis? COVID-19 and the unexpected recovery of regional trade in East Africa

<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/africa-in-focus/2020/09/28/crisis-what-crisis-covid-19-and-the-unexpected-recovery-of-regional-trade-in-east-africa/>

COVID-19 Less Deadly in Africa

<https://www.cfr.org/blog/covid-19-less-deadly-africa>