

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

PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

- Internet Governance
- Internet Freedom
- Privacy and Security
- Cyber Statecraft
- Cyber Attacks, Threats and Vulnerabilities
- Cyber Crime
- Cyber Capacity Building
- Cyber Protection of Critical Infrastructure

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

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COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

Cypriot parliament speaker quits after passport scheme scandal

Al-Jazeera: 15 October 2020

An Al-Jazeera investigation revealed how senior Cypriot officials discussed ways to provide citizenship to a convicted criminal. After the investigation became public, Parliament Speaker Demetris Syllouris announced his resignation, and another government official quit after the government said it would abolish its controversial “golden passport” scheme.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/10/15/cyprus-house-speaker-resigns-following-al-jazeera-investigation>

Accessing, harvesting and trading in wildlife: Corruption in the use of permits and allocation of access rights

Willow Outhwaite – TRAFFIC: October 2020

The nongovernmental organization TRAFFIC, under the USAID-funded Targeting Natural Resources Corruption project, released a brief that discusses the stages in a wildlife supply chain in which permits for harvest or trade are issued, inspected or accepted, and the inherent vulnerabilities to corruption.

<https://www.traffic.org/site/assets/files/13282/topic-brief-accessing-harvesting-and-trading-in-wildlife-corruption-in-the-use-of-permits-and-allocation-of-access-rights.pdf>

For more on this theme:

Safeguarding forest protection funds from corruption

<https://www.transparency.org/en/blog/safeguarding-forest-protection-funds-from-corruption>

Defending indigenous communities from the deadly effects of corruption

<https://www.transparency.org/en/blog/defending-indigenous-communities-from-the-deadly-effects-of-corruption>

Unemployment and corruption: why millions of young Arabs mull quitting their homelands

<https://www.arabianbusiness.com/politics-economics/452690-arab-youth-survey-jobs-corruption-force-millions-of-young-arabs-to-mull-quitting-homelands>

EC Report on Kosovo: Political Instability, Corruption Are Concerning Issues

<https://exit.al/en/2020/10/07/ec-report-on-kosovo-political-instability-corruption-are-concerning-issues/>

Spain extradites former banker sentenced in Iran for corruption

<https://www.aljazeera.com/economy/2020/10/15/spain-extradites-former-banker-sentenced-in-iran-for-corruption>

Guatemala’s Attorney General Lashes Out Against Anti-Corruption Prosecutor’s Office

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/analysis/guatemalas-attorney-general-lashes-out-against-anti-corruption-prosecutors-office/>

Angola’s anti-corruption crusade tide turns against João Lourenço

<https://www.theafricareport.com/45963/angolas-anti-corruption-crusade-tide-turns-against-joao-lourenco/>

DRUG TRAFFICKING

European Drug Report Shows Advances in Trans-Atlantic Drug Trafficking

Owen Boed – InSight Crime: 12 October 2020

The 2020 “European Drug Report” breaks down drug trafficking dynamics from 2018 to 2020 and provides key insights into how record cocaine production in Latin America affects the supply across the Atlantic.

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/analysis/european-drug-report-advances/>

Full report:

The European Drug Report 2020

<https://www.emcdda.europa.eu/edr2020>

UC San Diego Mexico Violence Resource Project Goes Beyond Cartels to Study Drug War

Christine Clark – University of California San Diego: 14 October 2020

The University of California San Diego’s Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies launched a research project to provide data and analysis on the escalation of violence in Mexico related to narco-trafficking and its effects on the population.

<https://ucsdnews.ucsd.edu/pressrelease/uc-san-diego-mexico-violence-resource-projects-goes-beyond-cartels-to-study-drug-war>

For more on this theme:

Crashed Plane in Colombia May Be Example of ‘Cloned Craft’

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/brief/crashed-plane-colombia-cloned-craft/>

Duterte: Warring Syndicates Responsible for Drug Killings in Philippines

<https://www.benarnews.org/english/news/philippine/ph-duterte-drugs-10062020114354.html>

Drug deaths: Surge in fatalities of female cocaine users

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-54540863>

‘Women from Bangladesh trafficked, pushed into sex trade and drug peddling’: MP Police

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/bhopal/women-from-bangladesh-trafficked-pushed-into-sex-trade-and-drug-peddling-mp-police/story-m6jU5ACKEdhi7BrfnQK7VK.html>

South Korea being used as transit hub for smugglers

<http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20201013000791>

Business As Usual? Cocaine Seizures On the Rise At Bolivia-Brazil Border

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/brief/cocaine-seizures-rise-bolivia-brazil/>

Drug Flights Climb Again in Honduras and Guatemala

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/analysis/aerial-cocaine-trafficking-honduras-guatemala/>

Insurgents in North East funded from illicit drug trade — NDLEA Chairman

<https://www.vanguardngr.com/2020/10/insurgents-in-north-east-funded-from-illicit-drug-trade-ndlea-chairman/>

TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

Chinese government continues to support the sale of pangolin parts for use in traditional medicine, says report

Despite promises to ban the illegal trade of pangolins, the Chinese government continues to allow the use of pangolin scales for traditional medicine, according to a report from the Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA). According to the EIA, “The Chinese Government is undermining international efforts to end the global pangolin trafficking crisis and fueling transnational organized crime.”

<https://www.independent.co.uk/environment/chinese-government-pangolin-traditional-medicine-illegal-wildlife-trade-b1015080.html>

Wildlife crime could be a source of future pandemics; tackling it must be embedded into international criminal law

End Wildlife Crime – Taiwan News: 16 October 2020

The Global Initiative to End Wildlife Crime released details of a potential groundbreaking legal agreement on tackling wildlife crime that could help avoid future wildlife-related pandemics. The form of this agreement would be a protocol under the United Nations’ main international legal instrument in the fight against transnational crime.

<https://www.taiwannews.com.tw/en/news/4030490>

For more on this theme:

What are you really eating? How threatened ‘seafood’ species slip through the law and onto your plate

<https://menafn.com/1100914027/What-are-you-really-eating-How-threatened-seafood-species-slip-through-the-law-and-onto-your-plate>

A Glimmer Of Hope For ASEAN’s Tigers

<https://theaseanpost.com/article/glimmer-hope-aseans-tigers>

Farmers, Herders and Wildlife Bear Brunt of Damage To Miombo Forests

<https://pulitzercenter.org/reporting/farmers-herders-and-wildlife-bear-brunt-damage-miombo-forests>

Mining Taking Place on More Than 20 Percent of Indigenous Land in the Amazon

<https://e360.yale.edu/digest/mining-taking-place-on-more-than-20-percent-of-indigenous-land-in-the-amazon>

Indonesia creates intelligence hub to curb illegal fishing

<https://www.seafoodsource.com/news/environment-sustainability/indonesia-creates-intelligence-hub-to-curb-illegal-fishing>

Hackathon winners to help fight illegal fishing

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2020/10/03/public-square/hackathon-winners-to-help-fight-illegal-fishing/775377/>

Stopping criminals who traffic wildlife

<https://share.america.gov/stopping-criminals-who-traffic-wildlife/>

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND IRREGULAR MIGRATION

Human trafficking in South Africa: Are the Constitutional Court and public being misled?

M van der Watt, B Kruger, A Warriá, M Emser and A van der Westhuizen – Daily Maverick: 11 October 2020

South Africa presents the ideal climate for human trafficking, and the government is downplaying the severity of the problem.

<https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2020-10-11-human-trafficking-in-south-africa-are-the-constitutional-court-and-public-being-misled/>

Migrants from Africa take more dangerous route to Europe

Jan-Philipp Scholz – Deutsche Welle: 9 October 2020

More African migrants have been making the dangerous journey across the Atlantic Ocean to the Canary Islands. The COVID-19 pandemic has been just one factor driving the rise in arrivals. The route is considered the most dangerous crossing in the world.

<https://www.dw.com/en/migrants-from-africa-take-more-dangerous-route-to-europe/a-55201985>

For more on this theme:

Rise in human trafficking into Scotland sounds alarm bells

https://www.heraldscotland.com/business_hq/18767373.rise-human-trafficking-scotland-sounds-alarm-bells/

Uber SA moves to help fight human trafficking

<https://www.itweb.co.za/content/lwrKx73Kznr7mg1o>

UK companies must answer for modern slavery in supply chains

<https://news.trust.org/item/20201014134238-5zo8n>

Child marriage, trafficking on the rise amid Covid-19 pandemic: Report

<https://www.deccanherald.com/national/three-suspected-cases-of-coronavirus-reinfection-described-in-india-icmr-901564.html>

UN Agency Points To Links Between Human Trafficking And Forced Marriage

<https://www.eurasiareview.com/10102020-un-agency-points-to-links-between-human-trafficking-and-forced-marriage/>

Additional Human Trafficking Routes Identified Include Kenya, Somaliland

<https://menafn.com/1100952284/Additional-Human-Trafficking-Routes-Identified-Include-Kenya-Somaliland>

UAE raises the bar on tackling human trafficking

<https://www.gulftoday.ae/opinion/2020/10/13/uae-raises-the-bar-on-tackling-human-trafficking>

COVID-19 Destroyed Thailand's Economy, and the Livelihoods of Migrant Workers

<https://pulitzercenter.org/reporting/covid-19-destroyed-thailands-economy-and-livelihoods-migrant-workers>

PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

INTERNET GOVERNANCE

To Mend a Broken Internet, Create Online Parks

Eli Pariser – Wired: 13 October 2020

The author articulates a new vision for the internet, creating the equivalent of public parks online to use as community gathering spaces instead of just feeding everything and everyone into an endless black hole of content.

<https://www.wired.com/story/to-mend-a-broken-internet-create-online-parks/>

For more on this theme:

(Global) The Internet Should Be More Like Wikipedia

<https://builtin.com/founders-entrepreneurship/wikipedia>

(China, Global) New Internet Protocol: Redesigning the Internet with Chinese Characteristics?

<https://idsa.in/idsacomments/new-internet-protocol-msharma-151020>

(Global) Summary: UN Secretary General's roadmap on Digital Cooperation goals

<https://www.medianama.com/2020/10/223-un-digital-cooperation-roadmap/>

INTERNET FREEDOM

Pakistan's TikTok ban is about censorship, not China

Selina Wang – CNN: 13 October 2020

Like many other countries around the world, Pakistan is banning TikTok. But unlike those other nations, the reasoning the government gives is offensive content.

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/10/13/tech/tiktok-pakistan-ban-intl-hnk/index.html>

For more on this theme:

(Iran) Blood and Shutdowns: How Iran cut off Internet access during November 2019 protests

<https://ifex.org/blood-and-shutdowns-how-iran-cut-off-internet-access-during-november-2019-protests/>

(Global) Freedom on the Net 2020 finds online freedom in decline

<https://www.vpncompare.co.uk/online-freedom-decline/>

(Africa) More African governments are quietly tightening rules and laws on social media

<https://qz.com/africa/1915941/lesotho-uganda-tanzania-introduce-social-media-rules/>

PRIVACY AND SECURITY

Brazil sees first lawsuit after introduction of data protection regulations

Angelica Mari – ZDNet: 9 October 2020

Brazil has concluded a lawsuit in which the final ruling was based on the country's new General Data Protection Regulations.

<https://www.zdnet.com/article/brazil-sees-first-lawsuit-after-introduction-of-data-protection-regulations/>

For more on this theme:

(U.S., Global) The Trust Factor And Why It's Critical For Data Privacy

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/forbestechcouncil/2020/10/14/the-trust-factor-and-why-its-critical-for-data-privacy/#fdc7d272bdb6>

(Global) Global Privacy Control initiative seeks to give users control over their Internet privacy wishes

<https://techxplore.com/news/2020-10-global-privacy-users-internet.html>

(Global) The Important Difference Between Cybersecurity And Cyber Resilience (And Why You Need Both)

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/bernardmarr/2020/10/14/the-important-difference-between-cybersecurity-and-cyber-resilience-and-why-you-need-both/#1a0fb9b51721>

CYBER STATECRAFT

New National Strategy Calls for Promoting, Protecting Critical Tech

John A. Tirpak – Air Force Magazine: 15 October 2020

The U.S. government released a new, whole-of-government strategy for high technology, setting as its “pillars” the need to develop new capabilities and protect them from world competitors seeking to steal them.

<https://www.airforcemag.com/new-national-strategy-calls-for-promoting-protecting-critical-tech/>

For more on this theme:

(Israel) Dilemmas and opportunities in the cyber winter

<https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/dilemmas-and-opportunities-in-the-cyber-winter-645893>

(ASEAN, India) ASEAN-India summit focuses on cyber security

<https://www.bignewsnetwork.com/news/266679064/asean-india-summit-focuses-on-cyber-security>

CYBER ATTACKS, THREATS AND VULNERABILITIES

New Website Predicts Likelihood Of Cyber Attacks Between Nations

Johns Hopkins – Science Blog: 14 October 2020

Where in the world might the next cyber attack between nations take place? A new online database developed by a team of Johns Hopkins University computer scientists and international studies students provides a predictive analysis of nations most likely to engage in the cyber realm rather than conventionally.

<https://scienceblog.com/519013/new-website-predicts-likelihood-of-cyber-attacks-between-nations/>

For more on this theme:

(Iran) Iran says one of two cyber attack targets was country's ports — news agency

<https://uk.reuters.com/article/us-iran-cyber-attacks/iran-says-one-of-two-cyber-attack-targets-was-countrys-ports-news-agency-idUSKBN271131>

(Norway, Russia) Norway blames Russia for cyber-attack on parliament

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-54518106>

(Global) Prolific Cybercrime Group Now Focused on Ransomware

<https://www.darkreading.com/threat-intelligence/prolific-cybercrime-group-now-focused-on-ransomware/d/d-id/1339195>

CYBER CRIME

Cyber criminals renting out their malware, expert warns

Andrew Tillett – Financial Review: 13 October 2020

International cyber criminals have embraced a “franchise” model and are selling malware to other attackers who then target businesses and individuals demanding ransom payments, Australia’s top cyber security adviser says.

<https://www.afr.com/politics/federal/cyber-criminals-renting-out-their-malware-expert-warns-20201012-p5648g>

For more on this theme:

(Global) Cybercrime money-launderers busted by European police, FBI

<https://apnews.com/article/portugal-crime-arrests-latvia-cybercrime-f597d0264e230b50eb7f-76f3aaa71aa7>

(Global) Security Think Tank: Adapting defences to evolving ransomware and cyber crime

<https://www.computerweekly.com/opinion/Security-Think-Tank-Adapting-defences-to-evolving-ransomware-and-cyber-crime>

(Global) How Criminals Use Artificial Intelligence To Fuel Cyber Attacks

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/forbesbusinesscouncil/2020/10/13/how-criminals-use-artificial-intelligence-to-fuel-cyber-attacks/#2895a2535012>

CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING

FCC, USAID Collaborate to Assist Developing Countries in 5G Network Rollout

Christina Tabacco – Law Street Media: 15 October 2020

The Federal Communications Commission in the U.S. and the U.S. Agency for International Development signed a memorandum of understanding pledging their efforts to promote the deployment of “open and secure” 5G networks in the developing world.

<https://lawstreetmedia.com/tech/tech-policy/fcc-usaid-collaborate-to-assist-developing-countries-in-5g-network-rollout/>

For more on this theme:

(U.S.) Considerations for the Structure of the Bureau of Cyber Statistics

<https://www.lawfareblog.com/considerations-structure-bureau-cyber-statistics>

(Japan) A Chance to Grow Japan’s Digital Aspirations

<https://www.wilsoncenter.org/blog-post/chance-grow-japans-digital-aspirations>

(Bangladesh) 100mn rural people to get high-speed internet access within 2020

<https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/nation/2020/10/11/100mn-rural-people-to-get-high-speed-internet-access-within-2020>

CYBER PROTECTION OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Ensuring Cyber Security in India’s Nuclear Systems

Pulkit Mohan – Observer Research Foundation: 15 October 2020

This paper evaluates the current state of cyber security in India’s civilian and military nuclear system, outlines the level of threats faced in this domain, and makes a case for the development of policy measures for an integrated cyber-nuclear security strategy.

<https://www.orfonline.org/research/ensuring-cyber-security-in-indias-nuclear-systems/>

For more on this theme:

(U.S., Global) Trouble underway: Seven perspectives on maritime cybersecurity

<https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/new-atlanticist/trouble-underway-seven-perspectives-on-maritime-cybersecurity/>

(U.S.) CISA confident on election cybersecurity

<https://fcw.com/articles/2020/10/13/election-cyber-cisa-kolasky.aspx>

(U.S.) Three fifths of transit agencies in the U.S. have a cyber preparedness plan

<https://www.securitymagazine.com/articles/93577-three-fifths-of-transit-agencies-in-the-us-have-a-cyber-preparedness-plan>

PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

ISIS AND FOREIGN FIGHTERS

Al-Qaeda and ISIS: A 'fratricidal' clash

Agence France-Presse: 9 October 2020

Al-Qaida and ISIS are fighting each other again. "The civil war raging between global jihadis is intensifying," said Professor Mohammed Hafez at the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School. "These dueling factions have failed to overcome the challenge of fragmentation under the stress of conflict and territorial retreat," he wrote in the U.S. Military Academy's Combating Terrorism Centre's journal, *CTC Sentinel*.

<https://www.straitstimes.com/world/europe/al-qaeda-and-islamic-state-a-fratricidal-clash>

Syria Kurds free hundreds of IS militants as part of amnesty

Bassem Mroue – The Associated Press: 15 October 2020

Kurdish-led authorities have released hundreds of militants from the Islamic State group who were imprisoned in northern Syria as part of a general amnesty in the region controlled by the U.S.-backed fighters.

<https://apnews.com/14f71b5a0ef2117e5db740f4480a1e4b>

For more on this theme:

Swedish female ISIS supporters may be tried in Syria for terrorism offences

<https://www.thenationalnews.com/world/swedish-female-isis-supporters-may-be-tried-in-syria-for-terrorism-offences-1.1092495>

Ben Mckelvey's Mosul: Australia's secret war inside the ISIS caliphate

<https://thenewdaily.com.au/entertainment/books/2020/10/10/mosul-isis-australia-mckelvey/>

The 'Beatles:' IS Jihadists With Taste for Torture

<https://www.thedefensepost.com/2020/10/09/beatles-is-jihadists/>

Islamic State group 'Beatles' plead not guilty over US hostage deaths

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-54487370>

ISIS on fast track to recovery as world grapples with pandemic

<https://www.israelhayom.com/2020/10/14/islamic-state-on-fast-track-to-recovery-as-world-grapples-with-corona-pandemic/>

Former diplomat says wives of ISIS members need to face justice

<https://www.thenationalnews.com/world/europe/former-diplomat-says-wives-of-isis-members-need-to-face-justice-1.1091918>

Several Killed In Ambush In Northeastern Nigeria

<https://theowp.org/several-killed-in-ambush-in-northeastern-nigeria/>

The Battle for Baga Halts Return to Normalcy in Nigeria's Borno Province

<https://jamestown.org/program/the-battle-for-baga-halts-return-to-normalcy-in-nigerias-borno-province/>

TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

East African terror groups are exploiting the seas

Isele van Zyl and Tyler Lycan – Institute for Security Studies: 13 October 2020

Violent extremist groups operating in East Africa such as al-Shabaab, Ansar al-Sunna and the Islamic State are increasingly making use of gaps in maritime security. Counterterrorism strategies must target this aspect of their operations to stop extremists from exploiting Africa's coasts through attacks, smuggling and extortion.

<https://issafrica.org/iss-today/east-african-terror-groups-are-exploiting-the-seas>

Al Shabaab is moving millions through banks: U.N.

Reuters: 14 October 2020

Somalia's Islamist insurgents are moving millions of dollars through the formal bank system and appear to be investing in businesses and real estate, according to a United Nations report offering a rare glimpse into their finances.

<https://in.mobile.reuters.com/video/watch/al-shabaab-is-moving-millions-through-ba-id720707534?chan=b-3c0un5f>

For more on this theme:

UN humanitarian chief: Sahel is very close to tipping point

<https://apnews.com/article/chad-paris-cameroon-niger-africa-14c2ee1667fda23d21e8a3bf001e18b6>

Freed Malian politician details months as al-Qaida hostage

<https://apnews.com/article/bamako-archive-mali-ac901269372711732a3948c067981e36>

Al Shabaab has created a perfect storm in Somalia

<https://www.trtworld.com/opinion/al-shabaab-has-created-a-perfect-storm-in-somalia-40575>

Unending War Against Insurgency in the Lake Chad Basin Region: What is the Way Forward?

<https://theowp.org/unending-war-against-insurgency-in-the-lake-chad-basin-region-what-is-the-way-forward/>

Mali: Rights Groups Concerned After Jihadists Released in Prisoner Swap

<https://www.voanews.com/extremism-watch/mali-rights-groups-concerned-after-jihadists-released-prisoner-swap>

HTS Leader al-Julani's New Strategy in Northwestern Syria

<https://jamestown.org/program/hts-leader-al-julanis-new-strategy-in-northwestern-syria/>

Virus fears as Mozambique conflict fuels overcrowding, hunger

<https://news.trust.org/item/20201016020709-nietk/>

What peace in Cabo Delgado means for Mozambique and its neighbours

<https://issafrica.org/iss-today/what-peace-in-cabo-delgado-means-for-mozambique-and-its-neighbours>

Who are Al-Shabab militants terrorising northern Mozambique?

<https://ewn.co.za/2020/10/11/who-are-al-shabab-militants-terrorising-northern-mozambique>

RADICALIZATION AND MESSAGING

The rise of lockdown radicalism

Farooq Yousaf – East Asia Forum: 14 October 2020

COVID-19 lockdowns throughout the world have aggravated socio-political inequalities. Various terrorist, radical and violent extremist groups, especially ISIS, are trying to cash in on these inequalities to propagate hate-filled narratives.

<https://www.eastasiaforum.org/2020/10/14/the-rise-of-lockdown-radicalism/>

For more on this theme:

Pandemic raises risk of extremism spreading: Expert

<https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/pandemic-raises-risk-of-extremism-spreading-expert>

The local groups fighting violent extremism in the UK

<https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/global-extremes/local-groups-fighting-violent-extremism-uk/>

Prison officers under ‘constant threat’ of beheadings from extremists

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-cambridgeshire-54551709>

IRREGULAR WARFARE: SOFT POWER

China, increasingly mighty, still learning how to project power

Ann Scott Tyson – The Christian Science Monitor: 9 October 2020

As public opinions about China sour around the globe, Beijing appears to be taking a two-track approach to soft power – adopting a combative stance toward liberal democracies while promoting its model among weaker and authoritarian-leaning regimes in Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

<https://www.csmonitor.com/World/Asia-Pacific/2020/1009/China-increasingly-mighty-still-learning-how-to-project-power>

For more on this theme:

China expands its economic and political influence in northern Iraq

<https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/china-expands-its-economic-and-political-influence-in-northern-iraq/>

Soft Power in International Military Relations: A UK–Pakistan Case Study

<https://rusi.org/commentary/soft-power-international-military-relations-uk-pakistan-case-study>

China’s growing security activism in Africa

<https://www.orfonline.org/expert-speak/chinas-growing-security-activism-in-africa/>

In Lithuania, Russia’s war for influence is waged with cable TV and basketball

<https://www.euronews.com/2020/10/13/in-lithuania-russia-s-war-for-influence-is-waged-with-cable-tv-and-basketball>

China’s Economic Statecraft in Europe During the Pandemic

<https://warontherocks.com/2020/10/chinas-economic-statecraft-in-europe-during-the-pandemic/>

IRREGULAR WARFARE: PROXY FORCES

Iraqi militias say they have halted anti-U.S. attacks

John Davison – Reuters: 11 October 2020

An array of Iran-backed Iraqi militia groups has suspended rocket attacks on U.S. forces on the condition that Iraq's government presents a timetable for the withdrawal of American troops, according to a spokesman for Kataib Hezbollah, one of the most powerful Iran-backed militia groups in Iraq.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/uk-iraq-militias-idUSKBN26W0IT>

For more on this theme:

America needs to stop Iranian-controlled militias in our hemisphere

<https://thehill.com/opinion/international/519983-america-needs-to-stop-iranian-controlled-militias-in-our-hemisphere>

US accuses Iran of destabilising Syria through proxies

<https://www.newdelhitimes.com/us-accuses-iran-of-destabilising-syria-through-proxies/>

Saudi UN envoy urges international action against Iran's support for militias

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/1747836/saudi-arabia>

On the Anniversary of Iraq's Uprising, Iran Still Kills With Impunity

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/middle-east-watch/anniversary-iraq-s-uprising-iran-still-kills-impunity-170412>