

THE MARSHALL CENTER

transnational weekly



A CURRENT AWARENESS SERVICE FROM THE MARSHALL CENTER

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COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

Iran Must Ratify Anti-Corruption Bills To Trade With The World – Lawmaker

Radio Farda: 14 October 2019

A pro-reform lawmaker in Iran says that bills to combat money laundering and corruption must be passed before the country can trade with other countries.

<https://en.radiofarda.com/a/iran-must-ratify-anti-corruption-bills-to-trade-with-the-world---lawmaker/30215497.html>

Rotten deals — how corruption spoils our food

Transparency International: 16 October 2019

Many opportunities for corruption exist along the global food supply chain.

<https://voices.transparency.org/rotten-deals-how-corruption-spoils-our-food-d95308c553c7>

For more on this theme:

Sudan Appoints First Female Judiciary Head to Fight Corruption

<https://aawsat.com/english/home/article/1940131/sudan-appoints-first-female-judiciary-head-fight-corruption>

How a Political Crisis Seized Peru: Boom Times, Corruption and Chaos at the Top

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/10/03/world/americas/peru-corruption-economy.html>

Mexican Supreme Court Justice resigns amid corruption questions

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-mexico-politics/mexican-supreme-court-justice-resigns-amid-corruption-questions-idUSKBN1WJ08K>

How the Modi government is weeding out corrupt bureaucrats

<https://www.livemint.com/news/india/how-the-modi-government-is-weeding-out-corrupt-bureaucrats-11570425751701.html>

Russia brands opposition leader Navalny anti-corruption group a ‘foreign agent’

<https://www.dw.com/en/russia-brands-opposition-leader-navalny-anti-corruption-group-a-foreign-agent/a-50749681>

Estonia As The Example How To Fight Corruption

<https://www.occrp.org/en/daily/10826-estonia-as-the-example-how-to-fight-corruption>

A case for a Council Against Corruption

<http://globalcomment.com/a-case-for-a-council-against-corruption/>

How Latin America Can Punish Corruption Without Killing Companies

<https://www.americasquarterly.org/content/how-latin-america-can-punish-corruption-without-killing-companies>

Russian police raid opposition anti-corruption group

<https://www.dw.com/en/russian-police-raid-opposition-anti-corruption-group/a-50835865>

Rada adopts law on protection of corruption exposers

<https://www.ukrinform.net/rubric-politics/2800891-rada-adopts-law-on-protection-of-corruption-exposers.html>

DRUG TRAFFICKING

Suspect or slave? Children caught in drug trade pose test for UK police

Kieran Guilbert – Reuters: 18 October 2019

One of the most difficult tasks police in Britain face is determining if a child caught selling drugs is a victim of modern-day slavery, according to a former police chief.

<http://news.trust.org/item/20191017233403-ubevq/>

For more on this theme:

Drug traffickers using USPS mail service to ship narcotics across the country

<http://www.postal-reporter.com/blog/drug-traffickers-using-usps-mail-service-to-ship-narcotics-across-the-country/>

The hunt for Asia's El Chapo

<https://www.reuters.com/investigates/special-report/meth-syndicate/>

How to Sell Drugs and Influence Everyone on Instagram

<https://www.bostonmagazine.com/health/2019/10/15/instagram-drug-market/>

I Came to Britain to Run an Illegal Weed Grow House

https://www.vice.com/en_in/article/kz4x7y/cannabis-grow-house-uk-abanian-gang

A 'Perfect Storm' Has Led to a Spike in Drug Deaths in Scotland

<https://www.worldpoliticsreview.com/trend-lines/28266/a-perfect-storm-has-led-to-a-spike-in-drug-deaths-in-scotland>

Synthetic opioid crisis still growing, often among unwitting users

<https://www.axios.com/synthetic-opioid-crisis-still-growing-unwitting-users-632a0baf-1e15-4621-9df4-6880ee06cb11.html>

The Future of Fentanyl and Other Synthetic Opioids

https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR3117.html

Good incentives, bad timing: crop substitution, coca cultivation, and aerial spraying in Colombia

<https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/latamcaribbean/2019/10/17/good-incentives-bad-timing-crop-substitution-coca-cultivation-and-aerial-spraying-in-colombia/>

Dakar cocaine seizure shows West African ports are easy transit hubs

<https://www.theafricareport.com/18839/dakar-cocaine-seizure-shows-west-african-ports-are-easy-transit-hubs/>

TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

'Barbaric' snares are wiping out Southeast Asia's wild animals

Sarah Lazarus – CNN: 16 October 2019

Snares made of wire and rope have become the biggest hazard to ground-dwelling animals in Southeast Asia, threatening the existence of various species. The cheap and simple snares, made from bicycle and motorbike brake wires, are used by hunters to capture animals. However, the snares endanger every animal caught in the trap, even those not the actual target.

<https://www.cnn.com/2019/10/16/asia/southeast-asia-snaring-crisis-hnk-intl/index.html>

For more on this theme:

This South African student is fighting animal poaching using wildlife photos

<https://www.cnn.com/travel/article/south-africa-animal-poaching-intl/index.html>

How International Shark Trade Restrictions Have Gained Momentum

<https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/articles/2019/10/07/how-international-shark-trade-restrictions-have-gained-momentum>

Can finance help Africa keep its wildlife?

<https://www.euromoney.com/article/b1hhj5td0d2ff/can-finance-help-africa-keep-its-wildlife>

Routes to beat the wildlife smugglers

<https://www.arabianaerospace.aero/routes-to-beat-the-wildlife-smugglers.html>

Twenty countries to fight wildlife trafficking as organised crime

<https://dialogochino.net/30782-twenty-countries-to-fight-wildlife-trafficking-as-organised-crime/>

Wildlife trafficking on the rise all across Latin America

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/oct/07/wildlife-trafficking-rise-across-latin-america>

Uganda: Wildlife Rangers trained on combating trafficking

<https://africasciencenews.org/uganda-wildlife-rangers-trained-on-combating-trafficking/>

Last wolves in Africa: the fragile wildlife of Ethiopia's ravaged parks

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/oct/11/last-wolves-in-africa-fragile-wildlife-ethiopia-park>

Smuggling of baby cheetahs worsens as Arabian demand grows

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/campaigns/GiantsClub/smuggling-of-baby-cheetahs-worsens-as-arabian-demand-grows-a9156971.html>

Holistic intervention needed to curb illegal wildlife trade

<https://www.telegraphindia.com/opinion/holistic-intervention-needed-to-curb-illegal-wildlife-trade/cid/1711494>

Using Old Cellphones to Listen for Illegal Loggers

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/10/15/climate/indonesia-logging-deforestation.html>

Illegal Gold Mining Operations Enter New Parts of Peru

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/brief/illegal-gold-mining-new-parts-peru/>

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND IRREGULAR MIGRATION

It's time we harnessed Big Data for good

Bob Grove and Anjuli Bedi – The World Economic Forum: 17 October 2019

The use of big data could change the way we look at and prosecute some of the world's most difficult challenges, including human trafficking. Sharing of appropriate data could make fighting human trafficking much easier.

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2019/10/data-big-harness-good-human-trafficking-stop-the-traffic/>

For more on this theme:

How a blockchain-based digital ID system could help tackle human trafficking

<https://thenextweb.com/hardfork/2019/10/14/how-a-blockchain-based-digital-id-system-could-help-tackle-human-trafficking-edited/>

African judges tackle human trafficking

<https://neweralive.na/posts/african-judges-tackle-human-trafficking>

Migrants left home for a reason. Returning is a struggle.

<https://www.csmonitor.com/World/Africa/2019/1011/Migrants-left-home-for-a-reason.-Returning-is-a-struggle>

European Agenda on Migration four years on: Marked progress needs consolidating in face of volatile situation

https://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-19-6075_en.htm

MONEY LAUNDERING

Who is behind the wheel? Fixing the global standards on company ownership

Transparency International: 17 October 2019

Governments are failing to tackle international money laundering and tax fraud because police don't have the tools to track down the owners of companies suspected of criminal activity, according to a report by Transparency International.

http://files.transparency.org/content/download/2408/14654/file/2019_Who%20is%20behind%20the%20wheel_EN.pdf

For more on this theme:

Pushpay founder backs anti-money laundering start-up

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/business/116352440/pushpay-founder-backs-antimoney-laundering-startup>

HSBC reveals its first money laundering detection system for trade finance

<https://www.gtreview.com/news/fintech/hsbc-reveals-its-first-money-laundering-detection-system-for-trade-finance/>

Digital Resilience in Real Time: Combating Fraud, Money Laundering and Cyber Crimes

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/videos/2019-09-27/digital-resilience-in-real-time-combatting-fraud-money-laundering-and-cyber-crimes-video>

Episode 03: Is a New Approach Needed?

<https://rusi.org/multimedia/episode-03-new-approach-needed>

PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

INTERNET GOVERNANCE

China's internet regulator praises whistle-blowers for keeping cyberspace free of 'harmful' content

Nectar Gan – South China Morning Post: 12 October 2019

China governs its internet through a public army of censors who report inappropriate material. In 2018, they reported 165 million violations, twice the number from the previous year.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/politics/article/3032647/chinas-internet-regulator-praises-whistle-blowers-keeping>

For more on this theme:

(Global) Cyber Governance Issues Take on High-Profile Status at the UN

<https://www.cpomagazine.com/cyber-security/cyber-governance-issues-take-on-high-profile-status-at-the-un/>

(Global) Leading Domain Registries and Registrars Release Joint Document on Addressing 'DNS Abuse'

http://www.circleid.com/posts/20191017_domain_registries_and_registrars_release_joint_document_on_dns/

(U.S., Global) Facebook's Oversight Board Is Not Enough

<https://hbr.org/2019/10/facebooks-oversight-board-is-not-enough>

PRIVACY AND SECURITY

What you do on the Internet is worth a lot. Exactly how much, nobody knows.

Marie C. Baca – The Washington Post: 14 October 2019

U.S. officials are trying to figure out the value of personal information on the internet to incorporate those figures into public policy, but it is easier said than done.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/technology/2019/10/14/what-you-do-internet-is-worth-lot-exactly-how-much-nobody-knows/>

For more on this theme:

(China) Will China's revised cybersecurity rules put foreign firms at risk of losing their secrets?

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy/article/3032649/will-chinas-revised-cybersecurity-law-put-foreign-firms-risk>

(U.S.) Senator proposes data privacy bill with serious punishments

<https://www.cnet.com/news/senator-proposes-data-privacy-bill-with-serious-punishments/>

(China) Starting December 1st, China's new MLPS 2.0 cybersecurity laws will require submission of a facial scan to receive internet access

<https://www.privateinternetaccess.com/blog/2019/10/starting-december-1st-chinas-new-mlps-2-0-cybersecurity-laws-will-require-submission-of-a-facial-scan-to-receive-internet-access/>

PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

Cybersecurity for Public-Private Partnerships

Roy Hadley – Security Magazine: 14 October 2019

Though people often overlook it, securing the public/private partnerships that facilitate information sharing and development is just as important as securing networks and infrastructure.

<https://www.securitymagazine.com/articles/91017-cybersecurity-for-public-private-partnerships>

For more on this theme:

(Indonesia) Indonesia completes fiber-optic network to bring internet to remote east

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-indonesia-infrastructure/indonesia-completes-fiber-optic-network-to-bring-internet-to-remote-east-idUSKBN1WTOXC>

(Jamaica) Chairman of SMA Calls for Public-Private Partnerships to Leverage Technology

<https://jis.gov.jm/chairman-of-sma-calls-for-public-private-partnerships-to-leverage-technology/>

(Azerbaijan) Azerbaijan Just Raised The Bar For Digital Services In The Caspian

<https://caspiannews.com/news-detail/azerbaijan-just-raised-the-bar-for-digital-services-in-the-caspian-2019-10-15-22/>

CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING

'Cyber security no longer restricted to internet'

Daily News: 16 October 2019

Advocating the need to increase international cooperation to facilitate resilience in cyberspace, a Malaysian security expert said that cyber security today is no longer restricted to the internet.

<https://www.dailynews.lk/2019/10/16/finance/199957/'cyber-security-no-longer-restricted-internet'>

For more on this theme:

(India) India's on a digital sprint that is leaving millions behind

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-india-49085846>

(Global) Will AI Cripple or Leapfrog Developing Nations' Growth?

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/will-ai-cripple-or-leapfrog-developing-nations-growth-87716>

(Ghana) Youth Urged To Take Precautions Against Cyber Attacks

<https://www.modernghana.com/news/961515/youth-urged-to-take-precautions-against-cyber-atta.html>

CYBER PROTECTION OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

From defensive to offensive: the UK boosts its cyber units

Grant Turnbull – Army Technology: 17 October 2019

The United Kingdom's Ministry of Defense will be starting new cyber operations centers through the British Army. The goal is to strengthen the U.K.'s defensive and offensive cyber capabilities.

<https://www.army-technology.com/features/from-defensive-to-offensive-the-uk-boosts-its-cyber-units/>

For more on this theme:

(Africa) Protect critical infrastructure and manufacturing plants with Indegy and NU Africa

<https://www.itweb.co.za/content/RgeVDMPomKg7KJN3>

(U.S.) Study Finds Utility Industry Vulnerable to Cyber Attacks

<https://www.tdworld.com/test-and-measurement/study-finds-utility-industry-vulnerable-cyber-attacks>

(U.S.) Cyber Command wants to work more closely with the energy sector

<https://www.fifthdomain.com/show-reporter/ausa/2019/10/16/cyber-command-wants-to-work-more-closely-with-the-energy-sector/>

COMBATING TERRORISM AND CYBER CRIME

Cybercrime Tool Prices Bump Up in Dark Web Markets

Elizabeth Montalbano – Threat Post: 16 October 2019

Over the past two years, prices for the hacking tools used by cyber criminals have continued to rise as attacks, such as ransomware, have grown more sophisticated, according to research published by security firm Flashpoint.

<https://threatpost.com/cybercrime-tool-prices-bump-up-in-dark-web-markets/149222/>

Full report:

Pricing Analysis from Goods in the Cybercrime Communities

<https://www.flashpoint-intel.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Flashpoint-Report-Pricing-Analysis-of-Goods-in-Cybercrime-Communities.pdf>

For more on this theme:

(Europe, Global) PR: Fighting cybercrime in a connected future

<https://www.securingsindustry.com/press-releases/fighting-cybercrime-in-a-connected-future/s135/a10880/#.Xal0kExFw2w>

(India) UP Police to expand cyber crime wings following spurt in online frauds

https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/up-police-to-expand-cyber-crime-wings-following-spurt-in-online-frauds-119101200416_1.html

(U.K.) Cyber-criminals are threat to society, warns forensics boss

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-49972290>

NOTEWORTHY PODCASTS

Decrypting ransomware for good.

The Cyberwire: 12 October 2019

Michael Gillespie, a programmer at Emsisoft, is a host of the ID Ransomware website that helps victims identify the strain of ransomware they may have been infected with and what decryptors may be available. He's written many decryptors himself, most recently for the Syrk strain of ransomware.

<https://thecyberwire.com/podcasts/cw-podcasts-rs-2019-10-12.html>

For more on this theme:

(Global) Cyber Security Today – Trust, toilets, browsing and jailbreaking

<https://www.itworldcanada.com/article/cyber-security-today-trust-toilets-browsing-and-jailbreaking/422901>

(Global) Combating phishing, malware and hackers – Cyber Work Podcast

<https://securityboulevard.com/2019/10/combating-phishing-malware-and-hackers-cyber-work-podcast/>

(Global) The fallacy of futility.

<https://thecyberwire.com/podcasts/cw-podcasts-hh-2019-10-17.html>

TRAINING AND EXERCISES

The Importance of Training: Cybersecurity Awareness like a Human Firewall

Remesh Ramachandran – Entrepreneur India: 15 October 2019

Businesses can no longer afford to overlook the greatest threat to their organizations: their employees' lack of cyber security training.

<https://www.entrepreneur.com/article/340838>

For more on this theme:

(Global) The Benefits of Developing a Cyber Aware Workforce With Non-Traditional Training

<https://www.csoonline.com/article/3445214/the-benefits-of-developing-a-cyber-aware-workforce-with-non-traditional-training.html>

(U.S.) Here's what the Army's cyber protection teams need

<https://www.fifthdomain.com/dod/army/2019/10/15/heres-what-the-armys-cyber-protection-teams-need/>

(U.K.) The Increasing UK Cyber Skills Gap

<https://securityboulevard.com/2019/10/the-increasing-uk-cyber-skills-gap/>

COUNTERING TERRORISM AND IRREGULAR WARFARE (CTIW)

ISIS AND FOREIGN FIGHTERS

In Iraq, concern that Syria chaos would bring back IS

Hadi Mizban – The Associated Press: 16 October 2019

Iraq's defense minister is worried that ISIS may take advantage of Turkey's invasion of northern Syria to destabilize Iraq. He said several militants have already escaped detention in Syria and crossed into Iraq.

<https://www.apnews.com/f9f48de86ab34fa7b0045c39755398d6>

Iraq Confronts Its Own Prisoner's Dilemma

Vera Mironova, Sam Whitt and Dara Tahseen Assi – Foreign Policy: 12 October 2019

New survey data shows that Iraqis are deeply divided on how to punish members of ISIS.

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2019/10/12/isis-prisoners-northern-syria-iraq-must-punish-own-captives/>

For more on this theme:

Islamic State: Who is taking back foreigners who joined?

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-49959338>

The arrival of ISIS in Southern Africa

<https://www.defenceweb.co.za/security/national-security/the-arrival-of-isis-in-southern-africa/>

The women of ISIS and the fog of law

<https://www.lowyinstitute.org/the-interpreter/isis-women-fog-law>

Why ISIS Built These Mad Max-Style Moving Fortresses

<https://www.popularmechanics.com/military/weapons/a29462555/isis-mad-max-fortress/>

U.S. Will Continue Defeat-ISIS Campaign, Official Says

<https://www.defense.gov/explore/story/Article/1990196/us-will-continue-defeat-isis-campaign-official-says/>

Kosovo ISIS Women and Children 'Escape Syria Camps'

<https://balkaninsight.com/2019/10/16/kosovo-isis-women-and-children-escape-syria-camps/>

Fears, Warnings on ISIS Comeback in Libya

<https://aawsat.com/english/home/article/1949651/fears-warnings-isis-comeback-libya>

The Wiranto attack and the ISIS impact

<https://www.lowyinstitute.org/the-interpreter/wiranto-attack-and-isis-impact>

Southeast Asia in the crosshairs of 'Islamic State'

<https://www.dw.com/en/southeast-asia-in-the-crosshairs-of-islamic-state/a-50839626>

TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

Terrorism: Making a Comeback or on the Decline? A New Report Has Answers.

Daniel R. DePetris – The National Interest: 13 October 2019

Researchers at the University of Maryland have created the National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START) program to help make sense of the ins and outs of modern-day terrorism. START's report is a qualitative resource for academics and practitioners responsible for understanding the terrorist phenomena and developing policies to counteract it. It's most recent report on 2018 is no exception.

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/terrorism-making-comeback-or-decline-new-report-has-answers-87791>

Full report:

Trends in Global Terrorism: Islamic State's Decline in Iraq and Expanding Global Impact; Fewer Mass Casualty Attacks in Western Europe; Number of Attacks in the United States Highest since 1980s

https://www.start.umd.edu/sites/default/files/publications/local_attachments/START_GTD_TerrorismIn2018_Oct2018.pdf

Is al-Shabab looking to Ethiopia?

Martina Schwikowski – Deutsche Welle: 16 October 2019

Al-Shabab has mostly struck Kenya when attacking outside Somalia's borders. But after recent arrests of alleged al-Shabab fighters in Ethiopia, is the Islamist group turning to Ethiopia as a new target?

<https://www.dw.com/en/is-al-shabab-looking-to-ethiopia/a-50854924>

For more on this theme:

The Return of the Pakistani Taliban

<https://thediplomat.com/2019/10/the-return-of-the-pakistani-taliban/>

Taliban liaison to al Qaeda freed as part of prisoner-for-hostage swap

<https://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2019/10/taliban-liaison-to-al-qaeda-freed-as-part-of-prisoner-for-hostage-swap.php>

After a Lull, Islamist Terrorism in Europe Returns With a Vengeance

<https://www.dailysignal.com/2019/10/09/after-a-lull-islamist-terrorism-in-europe-returns-with-a-vengeance/>

Hezbollah threatens Europe with Syrian refugees

<https://en.annahar.com/article/1045737-hezbollah-threatens-europe-with-syrian-refugees>

Hamas launches 'secret war' against Daesh in Gaza

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20191009-hamas-launches-secret-war-against-daesh-in-gaza/>

Al-Qaeda-Taliban links exposed

<https://www.deccanherald.com/opinion/second-edit/al-qaeda-taliban-links-exposed-767779.html>

Al Qaeda's recent activities point to dangers closer home. India must exercise caution

<https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/the-return-of-al-qaeda-asim-umar-6070645/>

RADICALIZATION AND MESSAGING

The soft power of mothers: Fighting extremism begins at home

Isabelle de Pommereau – The Christian Science Monitor: 17 October 2019

Edit Schlaffer realized the importance of training mothers as the first line of defense against radicalization and implemented a training program to help prepare those mothers to counteract extremism.

<https://www.csmonitor.com/World/Making-a-difference/2019/1017/The-soft-power-of-mothers-Fighting-extremism-begins-at-home>

How is Africa dealing with young extremists?

Isel van Zyl and Ruth Juliet N Gachanja – Institute for Security Studies: 16 October 2019

To best serve radicalized youth, they should be given special attention in separate prisons and undergo a different trial process, but the realities in Africa make that difficult. From lack of resources to myriad other problems, treating youth differently is more of a pipe dream.

<https://issafrica.org/iss-today/how-is-africa-dealing-with-young-extremists>

For more on this theme:

Former Boko Haram Fighters Seek Mental Healthcare, Forgiveness

<https://www.voanews.com/episode/former-boko-haram-fighters-seek-mental-healthcare-forgiveness-4059841>

Stigma Slows Reintegration of Former Boko Haram Fighters

<https://www.voanews.com/africa/stigma-slows-reintegration-former-boko-haram-fighters>

After knife rampage, French police are alert for radicalised colleagues

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-france-security-review/after-knife-rampage-french-police-are-alert-for-radicalised-colleagues-idUSKBN1WQ1XA>

Islamic State radicalisation a challenge in many states, Tamil Nadu foremost

<https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/islamic-state-tamil-nadu-nia-1609243-2019-10-14>

Govt introduces new legislation to de-radicalise terrorists returning from overseas

https://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=12277082

Start de-radicalisation programme in jails—MHA to police chiefs

<https://www.easternmirrornagaland.com/start-de-radicalisation-programme-in-jails-mha-to-police-chiefs/>

IRREGULAR WARFARE

How China gets American companies to parrot its propaganda

Isaac Stone Fish – The Washington Post: 11 October 2019

China is using American companies to not only advance its economic interests, but its political ones as well.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/how-china-gets-american-companies-to-parrot-its-propaganda/2019/10/11/512f7b8c-eb73-11e9-85c0-85a098e47b37_story.html

Saudi visit signals Putin's growing Middle East influence

Olesya Astakhova and Stephen Kalin – Reuters: 14 October 2019

The visit of Russian President Vladimir Putin to Saudi Arabia indicates that Russian influence is growing in the Middle East through both soft power and military might.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-saudi-russia/saudi-visit-signals-putins-growing-middle-east-influence-idUSKBN1WTOKH>

For more on this theme:

'Culture' as a soft power diplomacy: Transforming India's global image

<https://www.opindia.com/2019/09/culture-as-a-soft-power-diplomacy-transforming-indias-global-image/>

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