

THE MARSHALL CENTER

transnational weekly



A CURRENT AWARENESS SERVICE FROM THE MARSHALL CENTER

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COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

Ukraine's Top Court Deals Critical Blow To Anti-Corruption Agency

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty: 28 October 2020

Ukraine's constitutional court has ruled that basic powers of one of the top anti-corruption bodies are illegal, a significant blow to Kyiv's efforts to crack down on widespread corruption.

<https://www.rferl.org/a/ukraine-s-top-court-deals-critical-blow-to-anti-corruption-agency/30917920.html>

What can we learn from trends in corruption and anticorruption?

Jim Anderson – World Bank Blogs: 23 October 2020

What can be done about corruption? The World Bank report, "Enhancing Government Effectiveness and Transparency: The Fight Against Corruption," shows that curbing corruption is possible by applying various tools and approaches.

<https://blogs.worldbank.org/governance/what-can-we-learn-trends-corruption-and-anticorruption>

For more on this theme:

Anti-Corruption Priorities For The Pharmaceutical Industry In The Age Of Covid-19

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/alexandrawrage/2020/10/22/anti-corruption-priorities-for-the-pharmaceutical-industry-in-the-age-of-covid-19/#fee93791d4d5>

How the EU candidate countries in the Western Balkans stand with fight against corruption?

<https://europeanwesternbalkans.com/2020/10/20/how-the-eu-candidate-countries-in-the-western-balkans-stand-with-fight-against-corruption/>

In Belize, Corruption and COVID-19 Imperil the Ruling Party's Reelection Hopes

<https://www.worldpoliticsreview.com/articles/29140/how-corruption-and-covid-19-are-upending-the-belize-election>

Peru's Vizcarra denies new corruption allegations, prosecutors to investigate

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-peru-politics-idUSKBN2742JG>

A light shines on Nigerian corruption

<https://www.csmonitor.com/Commentary/the-monitors-view/2020/1016/A-light-shines-on-Nigerian-corruption>

Kyrgyzstan's Japarov: Revolutionary crime-fighting anti-corruption crusader?

<https://eurasianet.org/kyrgyzstans-japarov-revolutionary-crime-fighting-anti-corruption-crusader>

Pak's anti-corruption body slaps fresh graft case on Nawaz Sharif

<https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/world/paks-anti-corruption-body-slaps-fresh-graft-case-on-nawaz-sharif-160009>

Greece's Top Anti-Corruption Prosecutor Faces Removal

<https://www.occrp.org/en/daily/13307-greece-s-top-anti-corruption-prosecutor-faces-removal>

DRUG TRAFFICKING

Paraguay Forest Fires Fueled by Increasing Marijuana Demand During Pandemic

Gabriel González – InSight Crime: 26 October 2020

Forest fires that have blazed across Paraguay in recent weeks are likely to have been, in part, started by criminal groups seeking to clear space for more marijuana plantations.

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/analysis/paraguay-forest-fires-marijuana/>

Drug traders move to the streets when dark-web marketplaces get shut down

Diego Zambiasi – Qrius: 28 October 2020

Online drug trading is closely connected to street drug trading. The two markets act as substitutes, with trade moving back to the streets when darknet marketplaces get shut down. The trade quickly moves back online as soon as new darknet marketplaces gain the trust of buyers and sellers.

<https://qrius.com/drug-traders-move-to-the-streets-when-dark-web-marketplaces-get-shut-down/>

For more on this theme:

Argentina cracks down on currency trafficking amid FX battle

<https://www.reuters.com/article/argentina-peso/update-1-argentina-cracks-down-on-currency-trafficking-amid-fx-battle-idUSL1N2HC23G>

Iraq Seizes Truckloads Of Drugs Smuggled From Iran

<https://en.radiofarda.com/a/iraq-seizes-truckloads-of-drugs-smuggled-from-iran/30898414.html>

Drug Cartels Flourish In Southeast Asia Amid The Pandemic

<https://www.wvtf.org/post/drug-cartels-flourish-southeast-asia-amid-pandemic#stream/0>

Arrests should boost US-Mexico cooperation against drug trafficking

<https://thehill.com/opinion/criminal-justice/521796-arrests-should-boost-us-mexico-cooperation-against-drug-trafficking>

Japanese government develops anti-drug smuggling device for Olympics

<https://www3.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld/en/news/ataglance/1193/>

Seven bodies, nothing stolen: Were killings at Riverside marijuana grow ‘a message’?

<https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2020-10-28/aguanga-riverside-marijuana-grow-murders-laotian>

‘The Netherlands is the ideal environment for the international drugs trade’

<https://www.dutchnews.nl/features/2020/10/the-netherlands-is-the-ideal-environment-for-the-international-drugs-trade/>

Trying To Prevent Narco Self-Driving Cars That Act As Drug Mules

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/lanceiot/2020/10/25/trying-to-prevent-narco-self-driving-cars-that-act-as-drug-mules/#48b54ad11123>

TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

DNA sleuths target ivory poachers

Flinders University – EurekaAlert!: 26 October 2020

The tiniest amount of DNA is being accurately analyzed to identify the origins of old ivory. This clever new technique has the potential to thwart international ivory poachers by placing the origins of ivory pieces into accurate source locations, thereby identifying specific areas where ivory poachers are actively operating.

https://www.eurekaalert.org/pub_releases/2020-10/fu-dst102520.php

Conservationists warn that violation of China's wildlife trade ban is 'rampant'

Emma Ledger – Independent: 28 October 2020

The Chinese government in February outlawed the trade of wild animals for consumption amid global scrutiny over the source of the COVID-19 outbreak. However, conservationists and nongovernmental organizations warn that China's wildlife trade ban is being ignored and its loopholes exploited.

<https://www.independent.co.uk/world/conservationists-warning-china-wildlife-trade-ban-violation-b1367444.html>

For more on this theme:

Pandemic spurs illegal gold rush in Zimbabwe mountains

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-zimbabwe-mining-environment-feature-t-idUSKBN26X0CI>

A pandemic-created 'gold rush' in the Amazon is destroying Indigenous lands

<https://www.popsci.com/story/environment/covid-increases-mining-indigenous-lands-in-amazon-rainforest/>

Study highlights crimes associated with illegal fishing

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/asia-pacific/study-highlights-crimes-associated-with-illegal-fishing/2004889>

Coast Guard Begins At-Sea Testing of Unmanned Surface Vehicles to Tackle Illegal Fishing, Crime

<https://news.usni.org/2020/10/15/coast-guard-begins-at-sea-testing-of-unmanned-surface-vehicles-to-tackle-illegal-fishing-crime>

The Chinese Distant Water Fishing Fleet and Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing

<https://www.futuredirections.org.au/publication/the-chinese-distant-water-fishing-fleet-and-illegal-unreported-and-unregulated-fishing/>

Saving the vaquita marina and the urgency of this fall

<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/order-from-chaos/2020/10/12/saving-the-vaquita-marina-and-the-urgency-of-this-fall/>

Stop The Illegal Wildlife Trade: The detection dogs sniffing out wildlife crime

<https://www.independent.co.uk/world/stop-the-illegal-wildlife-trade-the-detection-dogs-sniffing-out-wildlife-crime-b1048229.html>

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND IRREGULAR MIGRATION

How People Smugglers Adapted After 39 Vietnamese Migrants Were Found Dead in a Truck

Michael Tatarski – VICE: 22 October 2020

The 2019 tragedy in Essex, England, and the pandemic haven't stopped demand for illegal Vietnamese migration. A year later, in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic, demand for migration remains, while the price for these risky journeys has skyrocketed.

<https://www.vice.com/en/article/7k9pbg/how-people-smugglers-adapted-after-39-vietnamese-migrants-were-found-dead-in-a-truck>

Children, women, migrants all at increased risk of exploitation and trafficking during second COVID wave, UN expert warns

United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commission: 28 October 2020

"The risks of exploitation in the current economic climate are great," Siobhán Mullally, United Nations special rapporteur on trafficking, said as she presented her annual report to the U.N. General Assembly. "Women have been hard hit by the collapse of informal economies, and with so many schools closed, children are increasingly at risk of online sexual exploitation and the worst forms of child labour," she said.

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=26443&LangID=E>

For more on this theme:

European Anti-trafficking Day: Human trafficking will not be tolerated

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/portal/-/european-anti-trafficking-day-human-trafficking-will-not-be-tolerated>

Study calls for tougher action against human trafficking

<http://jordantimes.com/news/local/study-calls-tougher-action-against-human-trafficking>

With Child Trafficking On the Rise, Why the World Community is Failing to Save the Children

<https://www.thenewleam.com/2020/10/with-child-trafficking-on-the-rise-why-the-world-community-is-failing-to-save-the-children/>

How Modern Technologies Help Organized Crime Groups Traffic People Across Borders

<https://www.hstoday.us/subject-matter-areas/border-security/how-modern-technologies-help-organized-crime-groups-traffic-people-across-borders/>

DHS: COVID-19 Is Increasing the Possibility of a Maritime Mass Migration Event to U.S.

<https://www.hstoday.us/subject-matter-areas/border-security/dhs-covid-19-increasing-the-possibility-of-a-maritime-mass-migration-event-to-u-s/>

Youth, trade roadmap aim to tackle root causes of irregular migration in Gambia

<https://thepoint.gm/africa/gambia/youth-forum/youth-trade-roadmap-aim-to-tackle-root-causes-of-irregular-migration-in-gambia>

PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

INTERNET GOVERNANCE

Competing U.S.-Russia Cybersecurity Resolutions Risk Slowing UN Progress Further

Josh Gold – Council on Foreign Relations: 19 October 2020

The two competing draft resolutions and a newly proposed “Programme of Action” raise questions about the future of cyber security negotiations at the United Nations.

<https://www.cfr.org/blog/competing-us-russia-cybersecurity-resolutions-risk-slowing-un-progress-further>

For more on this theme:

(Global) Every Internet Governance Stakeholder Has a Role to Play in the Online Health Debate

<http://www.circleid.com/posts/20201026-internet-governance-stakeholders-role-in-the-online-health-debate/>

(Kenya) APC Shaping Internet Governance Processes At KeIGF

<https://www.cio.co.ke/apc-shaping-internet-governance-processes-at-keigf/>

(Botswana) Cyber Security Paramount In Digital Era

<https://www.mmegi.bw/index.php?aid=87511&dir=2020/october/26>

INTERNET FREEDOM

Russia’s Internet Freedom Shrinks as Kremlin Seizes Control of Homegrown Tech

Dylan Myles-Primakoff and Justin Sherman – Foreign Policy: 26 October 2020

The Russian government, recognizing the scale of political and economic power now wielded by internet companies, seeks to channel that power toward its own ends.

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2020/10/26/russia-internet-freedom-kremlin-tech/>

For more on this theme:

(Tanzania) Tanzania’s internet restrictions during election are ‘despicable,’ digital rights activist says

<https://www.pri.org/stories/2020-10-28/tanzanias-internet-restrictions-during-election-are-despicable-digital-rights>

(China) China launches crackdown on mobile web browsers, decries ‘chaos’ of information

<https://ca.reuters.com/article/ctech-us-china-censorship-browsers-idCAKBN27B1Z3-OCATC>

(Pakistan) Pakistan’s online spaces for hate speech, censorship increase

<https://www.bignewsnetwork.com/news/266820147/pakistan-online-spaces-for-hate-speech-censorship-increase>

PRIVACY AND SECURITY

Army develops WhatsApp-like app for personnel to dodge risk of communication leaks

Amrita Nayak Dutta – The Print: 29 October 2020

The Indian Army has developed and launched a secure messaging application named the “Secure Application for the Internet” that supports end-to-end secure voice, text and video calling services for Android platform over the internet, the Ministry of Defence said.

<https://theprint.in/tech/army-develops-whatsapp-like-app-for-personnel-to-dodge-risk-of-communication-leaks/533201/>

For more on this theme:

(U.K.) £29 million government funding to boost digital revolution and help keep people safe online

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/29-million-government-funding-to-boost-digital-revolution-and-help-keep-people-safe-online>

(Global) Data Privacy in a Globally Competitive Reality

<https://tdwi.org/Articles/2020/10/27/DWT-ALL-Data-Privacy-in-a-Globally-Competitive-Reality.aspx?m=1>

(Kenya) The Timeless Value Of Trust

<https://www.cio.co.ke/the-timeless-value-of-trust/>

CYBER STATECRAFT

Five Principles for the Next UK Cyber Strategy

Conrad Prince – Royal United Services Institute: 27 October 2020

The completion of the United Kingdom’s Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy will be delayed. But key decisions about the country’s cyber strategy must be taken soon. This article outlines five principles that policymakers may wish to bear in mind when developing the next strategy for the U.K.

<https://rusi.org/commentary/five-principles-next-uk-cyber-strategy>

For more on this theme:

(Moldova) Concern over Moldova Cyber Security As Election Looms

<https://balkaninsight.com/2020/10/28/concern-over-moldova-cyber-security-as-election-looms/>

(Iran) The 4 strategic goals behind recent Iranian cyber attacks

<https://securityboulevard.com/2020/10/the-4-strategic-goals-behind-recent-iranian-cyber-attacks/>

(North Korea) CISA releases advisory on North Korean malicious cyber activity

<https://www.securitymagazine.com/articles/93757-cisa-releases-advisory-on-north-korean-malicious-cyber-activity>

PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

Involve stakeholders in development of cyber security policies – Prof Quaynor

Ghanaian Times: 27 October 2020

Government must involve stakeholders in the development of cyber security policies, suggests renowned computer scientist Nii Narku Quaynor. “Both the government and the private sector have important roles to play in ensuring that we are able to manage the governance of the cyber-space,” he said.

<https://www.ghanaiantimes.com.gh/involve-stakeholders-in-development-of-cyber-security-policies-prof-quaynor/>

For more on this theme:

(Southeast Asia) Mind the Gap: How Southeast Asia Can Make the AI Leap

<https://thediplomat.com/2020/10/mind-the-gap-how-southeast-asia-can-make-the-ai-leap/>

(U.S.) DOJ Cyber-Digital Task Force Issues Report on Cryptocurrency Enforcement Framework

<https://www.jdsupra.com/legalnews/doj-cyber-digital-task-force-issues-24735/>

(U.S.) Cyber Talent Gap Creates Impetus for Change in Federal Government Recruiting

<https://news.clearancejobs.com/2020/10/29/cyber-talent-gap-issues-create-impetus-for-change-in-federal-government-recruiting/>

CYBER PROTECTION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Protecting enterprise secrets and intellectual property in a volatile world

Genie Sugene Gan – Observer Research Foundation: 24 October 2020

As technology evolves and new solutions emerge, governments have taken greater interest in regulatory matters, particularly in Indo-Pacific economies with nascent domestic tech industries. This article explores the landscape of cyber security in the Asia Pacific, increased regulations, decoupling and supply chain disruptions, and the geopolitization of security.

<https://www.orfonline.org/expert-speak/protecting-enterprise-secrets-intellectual-property-volatile-world/>

For more on this theme:

(Canada, Global) Canadian COVID-19 researchers face a growing threat of cyber-espionage

<https://www.universityaffairs.ca/features/feature-article/canadian-covid-19-researchers-face-a-growing-threat-of-cyber-espionage/>

(Global) APT Group Wages Cyber Espionage Campaign

<https://www.bankinfosecurity.com/apt-group-wages-cyber-espionage-campaign-a-15094>

CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING

Stepping up digital transformation in Brazil could reinforce economic recovery from COVID-19 crisis

Bnamericas: 27 October 2020

Brazil has made significant progress in improving internet access, digital security and regulation, yet more needs to be done to reduce the country's digital divide and embrace digital technologies.

<https://www.bnamericas.com/en/news/stepping-up-digital-transformation-in-brazil-could-reinforce-economic-recovery-from-covid-19-crisis>

For more on this theme:

(Global) To Boldly Go Where No Internet Protocol Has Gone Before

<https://www.quantamagazine.org/vint-cerfs-plan-for-building-an-internet-in-space-20201021/>

(India) Boost for Digital India With Adoption of oneM2M Global Standard for Internet of Things Development

<https://aithority.com/internet-of-things/boost-for-digital-india-with-adoption-of-onem2m-global-standard-for-internet-of-things-development/>

(U.S.) Coronavirus Pandemic Prompted Cities to Rethink and Accelerate Broadband Strategies

<http://broadbandbreakfast.com/2020/10/coronavirus-pandemic-prompted-cities-to-rethink-and-accelerate-broadband-strategies/>

(Bangladesh) Digital Bangladesh must include rural citizens

<https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/news/digital-bangladesh-must-include-rural-citizens-1985821>

PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

ISIS AND FOREIGN FIGHTERS

When Women Commit War Crimes

Jessica Trisko Darden and Izabela Steffja – War on the Rocks: 28 October 2020

Despite their participation in conflicts around the world, women have historically been portrayed as innocent civilians. Recognizing this persistent blind spot can inform domestic and international legal responses to the pressing challenge posed by ISIS.

<https://warontherocks.com/2020/10/when-women-commit-war-crimes/>

Crowdfunding the Women of the Islamic State

Vera Mironova – Lawfare: 29 October 2020

Life is not cheap in the women's detainee camps for ISIS-affiliated families in northeastern Syria. But detained women consistently manage to get the funds to survive and sometimes even to escape. So how are women getting that money?

<https://www.lawfareblog.com/crowdfunding-women-islamic-state>

For more on this theme:

Rojava to try ISIS prisoners under international monitoring in early 2021: Kurdish official

<https://www.rudaw.net/english/middleeast/syria/21102020>

Revisiting the Ecosystem of Islamic State's 'Virtual Caliphate'

<https://gnet-research.org/2020/10/21/revisiting-the-ecosystem-of-islamic-states-virtual-caliphate/>

ISIS Re-Establishing Network in Africa

<https://www.newsmax.com/newsfront/isis-isis-africa-terrorism/2020/10/27/id/994040/>

The Islamic State Franchises In Africa: Lessons From Lake Chad

<https://www.thenigerianvoice.com/news/293248/the-islamic-state-franchises-in-africa-lessons-from-lake-ch.html>

Islamic State-Claimed Bombing Hits Afghan Capital, Killing 18

<https://www.voanews.com/south-central-asia/islamic-state-claimed-bombing-hits-afghan-capital-killing-18>

Canada needs a plan to bring home the children of jihadists

<https://theconversation.com/canada-needs-a-plan-to-bring-home-the-children-of-jihadists-148398>

Albanian Children to be Returned from Syrian Refugee Camps

<https://balkaninsight.com/2020/10/26/albanian-children-to-be-returned-from-syrian-refugee-camps/>

Tanzania hit by recent ISIS attack near Mozambique border

<https://www.news24.com/news24/Africa/News/tanzania-hit-by-recent-isis-attack-near-mozambique-border-20201023>

TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

Desert Drift, Declining Deadliness: Understanding the Evolution of AQIM's Suicide Bombings

Jason Warner, Ellen Chapin and Caleb Weiss – Combating Terrorism Center at West Point: October 2020, 15

This report examines how al-Qaida and its affiliated groups have deployed suicide bombers over the past 13 years, from March 2007 to September 2020.

<https://ctc.usma.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Desert-Drift-Declining-Deadliness.pdf>

Elaborate Somali insurgent tax system collects almost as much as government

Katharine Houreld – Reuters: 27 October 2020

Al-Shabaab collects almost as much taxes in Somalia as the official administration, estimates the Hiraal Institute in Mogadishu.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-somalia-security/elaborate-somali-insurgent-tax-system-collects-al-most-as-much-as-government-idUSKBN27C220>

For more on this theme:

US focused on disrupting finances for Somalia's al-Shabab

<https://apnews.com/article/terrorism-somalia-united-nations-3a7b0dbdf009596374179249eeb62d36>

Al Qaeda Feels Losses in Syria and Afghanistan but Stays Resilient

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/10/27/world/middleeast/al-qaeda-afghanistan-syria-somalia.html>

Al-Shabaab's Top Leader Transfers Power Amid Factional Strife

<https://jamestown.org/program/al-shabaabs-top-leader-transfers-power-amid-factional-strife/>

The threat from al Qaeda persists

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/editorials/the-threat-from-al-qaeda-persists-ht-editorial/story-dujNMrpotd-nXkQzWaoobWN.html>

How Will the Death of al Qaeda's al-Masri Affect Afghanistan?

<https://inhomeandsecurity.com/how-will-death-al-qaedas-al-masri-affect-afghanistan/>

Beirut Port Blast Punctures Trust in Hezbollah

<https://jamestown.org/program/beirut-port-blast-punctures-trust-in-hezbollah/>

The Taliban's Highway Robbery

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2020/10/23/taliban-coal-tax-highway-toll-afghanistan/>

Boko Haram Jihadists Kill Eight Farmers in Nigeria's Borno State

<https://www.thedefensepost.com/2020/10/26/boko-haram-kill-eight-nigeria/>

Taliban Kills at Least 23 Afghan Soldiers in Latest Attacks

<https://www.voanews.com/south-central-asia/taliban-kills-least-23-afghan-soldiers-latest-attacks>

RADICALIZATION AND MESSAGING

Iraq's lost boys: Former Islamic State child soldiers left without help

Tom Westcott – Middle East Eye: 23 October 2020

Hundreds of Iraqi boys, many of them Yazidis, were forced to become child soldiers by ISIS, but few are getting any support to help them move on from their experience. “There is no deradicalization support, and this is a tremendous problem,” explained Haji Khalil Abu Muntadar, who heads the Hashd al-Shaabi [Popular Mobilisation] forces’ local security section.

<https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/iraq-islamic-state-yazidis-child-soldiers-rehabilitation>

For more on this theme:

France: A new generation of imams to fight extremism

<https://www.france24.com/en/tv-shows/focus/20201029-france-a-new-generation-of-imams-to-fight-extremism>

Community Resilience against Violent Extremism: EU project PAVE releases animated clip

<https://cordis.europa.eu/article/id/422599-community-resilience-against-violent-extremism-eu-project-pave-releases-animated-clip>

France's Flawed Stand against Islamist Radicalization

<https://www.nationalreview.com/2020/10/frances-flawed-stand-against-islamist-radicalization/>

IRREGULAR WARFARE: PROXY FORCES

Back into the Shadows? The Future of Kata'ib Hezbollah and Iran's Other Proxies in Iraq

Michael Knights – Combating Terrorism Center at West Point: October 2020

Kata'ib Hezbollah (KH) was Iran's most favored militant group in Iraq from its formation in the mid-2000s until the death of its founder, Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, on January 3, 2020. Yet, the activities and influence of al-Muhandis and KH were not synonymous, as has been shown since his death.

<https://ctc.usma.edu/back-into-the-shadows-the-future-of-kataib-hezbollah-and-irans-other-proxies-in-iraq/>

For more on this theme:

Houthi vow to bolster Iran ties as Tehran's new Hezbollah-linked 'ambassador' makes appearance

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/1754891/middle-east>