

THE MARSHALL CENTER

transnational weekly



A CURRENT AWARENESS SERVICE FROM THE MARSHALL CENTER

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COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

Europe wins a big anti-corruption battle

The Christian Science Monitor: 25 November 2019

While quite a few countries in Central and Eastern Europe give some reason for worry, Romania is potentially turning into a good news story. The country is moving away from its long legacy of corrupt government, albeit gradually, toward being a more transparent democracy where the rule of law is applied more honestly. Romania's presidential election reelection of an anti-graft president is likely to push the country further in this direction.

<https://www.csmonitor.com/Commentary/the-monitors-view/2019/1125/Europe-wins-a-big-anti-corruption-battle>

For more on this theme:

Political Turmoil And Corruption Allegations Cast A Shadow Over Kuwait

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/dominicdudley/2019/11/19/political-turmoil-corruption-kuwait/#8516e6c1aafb>

Lebanon's Mass Anti-Corruption Protests Enter Second Month, With Demonstrators and Government In 'Stalemate'

<https://www.newsweek.com/lebanon-mass-anti-corruption-protests-enter-second-month-1472242>

Banks facilitated South Africa corruption under Zuma, says Peter Hain

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-50463681>

Political corruption isn't just wrong, it also devalues business, ASU study finds

<https://asunow.asu.edu/20191101-discoveries-political-corruption-isnt-just-wrong-it-also-devalues-business-asu-study-finds>

Russia corruption: Putin's pet space project Vostochny tainted by massive theft

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-50462431>

Half a million Algerian workers jobless following corruption investigations

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20191119-half-a-million-algerian-workers-jobless-following-corruption-investigations/>

Former Malaysian PM Najib's Third Corruption Trial Opens

<https://apnews.com/8a7e4ca9e50247acbbcd8d2145fcc2e7>

Ghana: Corruption and neglect of the north threatens security

<https://www.theafricareport.com/19978/ghana-corruption-and-neglect-of-the-north-threatens-security/>

Corruption in the Balkans: the elephant in the room

<https://euobserver.com/opinion/146614>

Over 2,000 Venetians protest cruise ships, corruption after flooding

<https://www.foxnews.com/travel/venetians-protest-cruise-ships-corruption>

Innovation on the ground — approaches to tackling land corruption

<https://voices.transparency.org/our-approaches-to-tackling-land-corruption-33778778cc76>

DRUG TRAFFICKING

A ruthless Mexican drug lord's empire is devastating families with its grip on small-town USA

Beth Warren – Louisville Courier Journal: 25 November 2019

The Mexican drug cartel Jalisco Nueva Generación is flooding small-town America with dangerous drugs, and many smaller cities and towns lack the resources to effectively combat a sophisticated, billion-dollar enterprise.

<https://www.courier-journal.com/in-depth/news/crime/2019/11/24/el-menchos-mexican-drug-cartel-cjng-empire-devastating-small-towns/4181733002/>

The global drugs trade shifts to west Africa

The Economist: 21 November 2019

A seizure of nearly 2,000 kilograms of cocaine in the small West African country of Guinea-Bissau in September surprised observers. It wasn't because the country isn't a recognized transshipment point for South American narcotics destined for Europe, but like other poor countries in the region, cocaine shipments prop up kleptocratic governments.

<https://amp.economist.com/international/2019/11/21/the-global-drugs-trade-shifts-to-west-africa>

For more on this theme:

Europe's first 'narco-submarine' caught off Spain with 3,000 kilos of cocaine

https://elpais.com/elpais/2019/11/25/inenglish/1574680401_772913.html

Bogotá Raid Shows Importance of Mexico Cartels for Colombian Coca

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/analysis/mexican-cartels-highest-bidders-colombian-coca/>

Colombia Criminals Confuse Authorities with False Identities

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/brief/colombia-criminals-confuse-false-identities/>

A Marijuana Strain Nicknamed 'Creepy' Is Helping to Fuel Colombia's Narco War

<https://www.thedailybeast.com/inside-colombias-deadly-golden-triangle-where-guerrilla-dissidents-now-rule>

Irish communities severely affected by drug gang violence - EU report

<https://www.rte.ie/news/crime/2019/1126/1095235-gang-related-crime/>

Council of Europe deputies discuss drug policy and human rights

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/pompidou/-/council-of-europe-deputies-discuss-drug-policy-and-human-rights>

EU agencies blame globalisation and technology for rise in drug trafficking

<https://www.euronews.com/2019/11/26/eu-agencies-blame-globalisation-and-technology-for-rise-in-drug-trafficking>

Who is El Mencho? He's the most powerful drug kingpin you've never heard of

<https://www.courier-journal.com/in-depth/news/crime/2019/11/24/el-mencho-what-know-powerful-cjng-mexican-drug-cartel-leader/4086498002/>

Treasure, Corruption and Legal Machinations – Gerald's Legacy in Ecuador

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/analysis/ecuador-gerald-treasure-corruption/>

TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

Report: South Sudan Rebels, Government Trade in Illegal Timber Sales

Lasuba Memo – Voice of America: 26 November 2019

South Sudanese rebel and government commanders stand accused of illegally logging and selling teak and mahogany trees, according to a new report from the United Nations.

<https://www.voanews.com/africa/report-south-sudan-rebels-government-trade-illegal-timber-sales>

How a library of tree DNA could protect the world's forests

Jenny Marc – CNN: 27 November 2019

A group of organizations is joining forces to build a database of tree samples that will help officials crack down on illegal logging.

<https://www.cnn.com/2019/11/25/africa/gabon-tree-dna-library-scn-intl-c2e/index.html>

For more on this theme:

Is ASEAN serious about saving its marine turtles?

<https://theaseanpost.com/article/asean-serious-about-saving-its-marine-turtles>

Homes, land destroyed as desperate Zimbabweans turn to illegal gold mining

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-zimbabwe-mining-land-trfn/homes-land-destroyed-as-desperate-zimbabweans-turn-to-illegal-gold-mining-idUSKBN1XU04E>

Tanzania Rallies to Protect World's Largest Population of Lions

<https://allafrica.com/stories/201911210388.html>

The climate crisis has sparked a Siberian mammoth tusk gold rush

<https://www.wired.co.uk/article/mammoth-tusk-hunters-russia-china>

New tool helps fisheries enforcement track criminal fishing around the world

<https://www.seafoodsource.com/news/environment-sustainability/new-tool-helps-fisheries-enforcement-track-criminal-fishing-around-the-world>

Chinese medicine could bring about destruction of half the world's donkeys, new report reveals

<https://www.illicit-trade.com/2019/11/chinese-medicine-could-bring-about-destruction-of-half-the-worlds-donkeys-new-report-reveals/>

NGO Traffic warns of rise in international trafficking of glass eels

<https://www.illicit-trade.com/2019/11/ngo-traffic-warns-of-rise-in-international-trafficking-of-glass-eels/>

Focus: How Britain's biggest fund managers invest your money in China's trade in rare animals

<https://www.standard.co.uk/business/focus-how-britain-s-biggest-fund-managers-invest-your-money-in-china-s-trade-in-rare-animals-a4291991.html>

Rising affluence and cultural beliefs driving illegal wildlife trade in Southeast Asia: NGO

<https://www.todayonline.com/singapore/rising-affluence-and-cultural-beliefs-driving-illegal-wildlife-trade-southeast-asia-ngo>

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND IRREGULAR MIGRATION

Migrant Smuggling: What Financial Institutions Need to Know

Alison Jimenez – Reuters: 15 November 2019

Financial institutions can and must play a key role in detecting and identifying migrant smuggling because criminal organizations are exploiting migrants' desperation, often at a deadly price.

<http://www.legalexecutiveinstitute.com/migrant-smuggling/>

The return of migrants from Europe is causing problems for The Gambia

Judith Altrogge and Franzisca Zanker – Quartz: 21 November 2019

Nearly 40,000 Gambians became irregular migrants between 2013 and 2017 while the country was run by President Yahya Jammeh. Many of these migrants, mostly young men, sought asylum in Europe, but many have been turned away and deported back to The Gambia.

<https://qz.com/africa/1751948/returning-migrants-from-europe-cause-problems-for-the-gambia/>

For more on this theme:

Italy: Outspoken but unheard - How diasporas in Europe shape migration along the Central Mediterranean Sea route (October 2019)

<https://www.reach-initiative.org/what-we-do/news/outspoken-but-unheard-how-diasporas-in-europe-shape-migration-along-central-mediterranean-sea-route/>

IOM Tracks Repatriations of Haitian Migrants from The Bahamas

<https://reliefweb.int/report/haiti/iom-tracks-repatriations-haitian-migrants-bahamas>

Kurdish-Led Forces Bust ISIS Human Smuggling Ring in North Syria

<https://www.hstoday.us/subject-matter-areas/counterterrorism/kurdish-led-forces-bust-isis-human-smuggling-ring-in-north-syria/>

War on human trafficking: EU must continue to cooperate with UK ministers, warns expert

<https://www.express.co.uk/news/politics/1209590/Human-trafficking-eu-news-UK-warning>

Egypt hosts 1st regional forum on fighting human trafficking in Africa

http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-11/27/c_138585392.htm

Efforts to prevent human trafficking

<https://www.telegraphindia.com/opinion/efforts-to-prevent-human-trafficking/cid/1721574>

Human trafficking survivors form forum

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/chennai/human-trafficking-survivors-form-forum/article30031569.ece>

Shining light on the dim reality of human trafficking issues

<https://elevenmyanmar.com/news/shining-light-on-the-dim-reality-of-human-trafficking-issues>

High-Seas Rescues Put Migrants in Harm's Way

<https://www.bloomberg.com/opinion/articles/2019-11-25/high-seas-rescues-may-make-eu-s-illegal-immigration-problem-worse>

MONEY LAUNDERING

How Westpac is alleged to have broken anti-money laundering laws 23 million times

Ian Fargher – The Conversation: 24 November 2019

Australia's second-largest bank, Westpac, is accused of breaching laws aimed at hindering criminal money laundering and the financing of terrorism. With some of those breaches involving suspicious transactions in Southeast Asia, it is alleged that Westpac has potentially facilitated the most heinous of crimes – the commerce of child sex abuse.

<https://theconversation.com/how-westpac-is-alleged-to-have-broken-anti-money-laundering-laws-23-million-times-127518>

Following massacre of Americans, we need a new strategy to defeat drug cartels

Sen. Bill Cassidy and Dr. Vanita M. Singh – The Hill: 20 November 2019

Tackling trade-based money laundering may be the best way to go after and defeat violent drug cartels. The systems are largely in place, but key players need to work together to make it work.

<https://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/homeland-security/471331-following-massacre-of-americans-we-need-a-new-strategy>

For more on this theme:

How AI can help reduce money laundering

<https://www.techradar.com/news/how-ai-can-help-reduce-money-laundering>

Money Laundering on Video Games: Play On or Game Over?

<https://www.law.com/legaltechnews/2019/11/07/why-money-laundering-isnt-game-over-for-online-gaming-platforms/>

Anti-Money Laundering Start-Up TookiTakei Raise £9.8 Million

<https://www.cbronline.com/news/tookitaki>

Phoenix Thoroughbreds owner denies money-laundering allegations

<https://www.theguardian.com/sport/2019/nov/25/phoenix-thoroughbreds-owner-denies-money-laundering-allegations>

US authorities arrest Brazilian ex-CEO in bribery case

<https://apnews.com/e6b5555197174e629c9d022d28ba9bae>

Money laundering in Estonia. Russian secret services benefited?

<https://warsawinstitute.org/money-laundering-estonia-russian-secret-services-benefited/>

Saudi Arabia's Public Prosecutor leads coalition of authorities to fight money laundering

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/1588801/saudi-arabia>

Feds target Venezuelan brothers in new \$4.5 billion money-laundering investigation

<https://www.miamiherald.com/news/nation-world/world/americas/venezuela/article237084814.html>

Money-Laundering Trouble Spot Says It's Turned Over a New Leaf

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2019-11-27/money-laundering-trouble-spot-says-it-s-turned-over-a-new-leaf>

PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

INTERNET GOVERNANCE

Contract for the Web: Tim Berners-Lee launches plan to fix the web

Rob Thubron – Techspot: 25 November 2019

Tim Berners-Lee, credited with inventing the World Wide Web, has released a plan to save the internet from becoming a “digital dystopia” and ensure that knowledge is freely available to everyone. The plan was developed with input from more than 80 organizations from government, business and civil society.

<https://www.techspot.com/news/82910-tim-berners-lee-launches-plan-fix-web.html>

Full report:

Contract for the Web

<https://contractfortheweb.org/>

For more on this theme:

(China, U.S., UN) UN Secretary-General: US-China Tech Divide Could Cause More Havoc Than the Cold War

<https://www.wired.com/story/un-secretary-general-antonio-guterres-internet-risks/>

(Global) Sticking to Crypto’s Core Philosophy Is the Way to Prevent Its Abuse

<https://cointelegraph.com/news/sticking-to-cryptos-core-philosophy-is-the-way-to-prevent-its-abuse>

(UN, Global) In 2019, Can Democracy Flourish Without Internet Access?

<https://www.pcmag.com/news/371926/in-2019-can-democracy-flourish-without-internet-access>

INTERNET FREEDOM

Russia Moves to Ban Sales of Gadgets Without Russian-Made Software

Victoria Song – Gizmodo: 22 November 2019

The lower house of the Russian parliament recently voted to ban the sales of internet accessible gadgets – from smartphones to smart TVs, computers and refrigerators – that don’t have Russian software that allows state-run internet providers to track, filter and redirect internet traffic.

<https://gizmodo.com/russia-moves-to-ban-sales-of-gadgets-without-russian-ma-1839997189>

For more on this theme:

(U.S., Europe, China, Global) What’s next for content moderation?

<https://www.cio.com/article/3454988/whats-next-for-content-moderation.html>

(Iran, China, Venezuela, Russia, Ethiopia) ‘Tool of repression’: Iran and regimes from Ethiopia to Venezuela limit Internet, go dark online

<https://amp.usatoday.com/amp/4268948002>

(Hong Kong) Fear of Internet Censorship Hangs Over Hong Kong Protests

<https://spectrum.ieee.org/tech-talk/telecom/internet/fear-of-internet-censorship-hangs-over-hong-kong-protests.amp.html>

PRIVACY AND SECURITY

US Cyber Command Calling Out North Korean Hackers

Nicole Lindsey – CPO Magazine: 21 November 2019

The U.S. government has a new strategy in its ongoing battle against state-sponsored hackers from North Korea: Out the hackers on public forums. The U.S. Cyber Command now posts malware samples from North Korean hackers on an information-sharing platform known as VirusTotal.

<https://www.cpomagazine.com/cyber-security/us-cyber-command-calling-out-north-korean-hackers/>

For more on this theme:

(U.K.) Airbus Launches Human Centric Cyber Security Accelerator

<https://wales247.co.uk/airbus-launches-human-centric-cyber-security-accelerator/>

(Australia) My Health Record exposed to shared cyber security risks

<https://www.itnews.com.au/news/my-health-record-exposed-to-shared-cyber-security-risks-534560>

(U.S.) You're Tracked Everywhere You Go Online. Use This Guide to Fight Back.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/11/24/smarter-living/privacy-online-how-to-stop-advertiser-tracking-opt-out.html>

CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING

Cyberwarriors lack planning tools. That could change.

Mark Pomerleau – Fifth Domain: 25 November 2019

The U.S. Air Force and the Pentagon's Strategic Capabilities Office are working on a plan named Project IKE that will help commanders coordinate and conduct cyber operations. "The objective of IKE is to develop automated artificial intelligence/machine learning techniques to assist human understanding of the cyber battlespace, support development of cyber warfare strategies and measure and model battle damage assessment," A Pentagon spokesman said.

<https://www.fifthdomain.com/dod/2019/11/25/cyber-warriors-lack-planning-tools-that-could-change/>

For more on this theme:

(Global) The Cybersecurity 202: The U.S. is racking up tactical victories in Huawei fight

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/powerpost/paloma/the-cybersecurity-202/2019/11/25/the-cyber-security-202-the-u-s-is-racking-up-tactical-victories-in-huawei-fight/5ddabbaa88e0fa652bbbd9a0/>

(Australia) China says self-confessed spy defector is fraudster

<https://apnews.com/33788b76328a475894f8a7aa8e689fae>

CYBER STATECRAFT DEVELOPMENT

Labour promises to review UK's cybersecurity defences

Silicon Republic: 22 November 2019

The United Kingdom's Labour Party has pledged to overhaul the country's cyber security with the creation of a coordinating minister and a review of the National Cyber Security Centre's role. In its 2019 manifesto, the party warned that services such as nuclear facilities, transport systems and communications networks are vulnerable to cyber attacks.

<https://www.siliconrepublic.com/enterprise/uk-cybersecurity-defences-review-labour-party>

For more on this theme:

(India) The Cyber Challenge: Dilemmas of an Indian response

<https://www.orfonline.org/expert-speak/the-cyber-challenge-dilemmas-of-an-indian-response-58019/>

(Australia) Renewed calls for dedicated Australian cyber minister and cyber leadership

<https://www.zdnet.com/article/renewed-calls-for-dedicated-australian-cyber-minister-and-cyber-leadership/>

(U.S.) Cyber strategy bolsters allies, partners ahead of 2020 election

https://www.army.mil/article/230055/cyber_strategy_bolsters_allies_partners_ahead_of_2020_election

CYBER ATTACKS, THREATS AND VULNERABILITIES

Cyber threats to IoT in 2020

Ohad Amir – TechRadar: 20 November 2019

As our homes become more connected, we become more vulnerable to hackers. As the internet of things industry continues to change, what issues are we likely to see in 2020?

<https://www.techradar.com/news/cyber-threats-to-iot-in-2020>

For more on this theme:

(India) Kudankulam cyberattack no threat to plant operations, minister confirms

<http://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Minister-confirms-details-of-Kudankulam-cyberattac?feed=feed>

(South Africa) Massive DDoS attacks – South African Internet providers crippled

<https://mybroadband.co.za/news/internet/329539-massive-ddos-attacks-south-african-internet-providers-crippled.html>

(Iran, Global) A Notorious Iranian Hacking Crew Is Targeting Industrial Control Systems

<https://www.wired.com/story/iran-apt33-industrial-control-systems/>

(Global) Tech experts predict rise in cyber threats in 2020

<https://www.newtimes.co.rw/business/tech-experts-predict-rise-cyber-threats-2020>

CYBER PROTECTION OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Israeli defense firm develops cutting-edge cyber defenses to protect critical infrastructure

Yaakov Lappin – JNS: 25 November 2019

Rafael Advanced Defense Systems built a Cyber Security Operations Center for Israel Railways – a critical infrastructure that faces 10 million attempted cyber attacks a month.

<https://www.jns.org/israeli-technology-firm-develops-cutting-edge-cyber-defenses-to-protect-critical-infrastructure/>

For more on this theme:

(EU, Global) Port cybersecurity: Safeguarding operations against cyber attacks

<https://www.helpnetsecurity.com/2019/11/27/port-cybersecurity/>

(EU, Global) European Cybersecurity Agency Publishes Report on Smart Car Security

<https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/news/enisa-publishes-report-on-smart/>

(Iran) Are Iranian Hackers Planning An Attack On Key Oil Assets?

<https://oilprice.com/Energy/Energy-General/Are-Iranian-Hackers-Planning-An-Attack-On-Key-Oil-Assets.html>

(U.S.) Small, regional utilities located near critical infrastructure targeted in cyberattack: WSJ

<https://www.utilitydive.com/news/small-regional-utilities-located-near-critical-infrastructure-targeted-in/568074/>

COMBATING TERRORISM AND CYBER CRIME

Cheap Cyber Weapons Threaten Unintended Consequences

George I. Seffers – Signal: 26 November 2019

The vast array of cyber weapons, the ease with which they can be obtained and the ever-decreasing cost of such weapons is driving nations and nonstate actors to reshape the cyber threat landscape.

<https://www.afcea.org/content/cheap-cyber-weapons-threaten-unintended-consequences>

Full report:

The Commoditization of Cyber Capabilities: A Grand Cyber Arms Bazaar

https://nsiteam.com/social/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/191119-AEP_Commodification-of-Cyber-Capabilities-Paper.pdf

For more on this theme:

(New Zealand) Study: Business has never been better for cybercriminals

<https://itbrief.co.nz/story/study-business-has-never-been-better-for-cybercriminals>

(Global) A model to classify cyberattacks using swarm intelligence

<https://techxplore.com/news/2019-11-cyberattacks-swarm-intelligence.html>

NOTEWORTHY PODCASTS

The Hunt: US Army using cyber expertise to turn the internet against terrorists

J.J. Green – WTOP: 20 November 2019

In this week's edition of *The Hunt*, Col. Andrew Hall, director of the Army's Cyber Institute, said the U.S. Army is using cyber technology to "defend forward" in cyberspace against terrorists.

<https://wtop.com/j-j-green-national/2019/11/the-hunt-us-army-using-cyber-expertise-to-turn-the-internet-against-terrorists/>

For more on this theme:

(Global) Hacking since age six | Cyber Work Podcast

<https://securityboulevard.com/2019/11/hacking-since-age-six-cyber-work-podcast/>

(Global) The CyberWire Daily Podcast – Episode 977

<https://thecyberwire.com/podcasts/cw-podcasts-daily-2019-11-25.html>

(U.S., Global) Compliance, regulation and small businesses.

<https://thecyberwire.com/podcasts/cw-podcasts-caveat-2019-11-27.html>

(U.S.) Hackers Welcome: Why Federal Regulators Are Welcoming Simulated Hacks In Hospital Settings

<https://www.kpbs.org/podcasts/kpbs-midday-edition-segments/2019/nov/26/hackers-welcome-why-federal-regulators-are-welcomi/>

TRAINING AND EXERCISES

Finland Rehearses For Ransomware Attacks With 235 Mock Bitcoin Ransom Demands

John Loeffler – Interesting Engineering: 23 November 2019

The Finnish Population Register Centre is coordinating a simulated ransomware cyber attack on more than 200 Finnish cities and public organizations. The program instructs participants on ways to protect themselves from attacks and how to respond to ransom requests from hackers.

<https://interestingengineering.com/finland-rehearses-for-ransomware-attacks-with-235-mock-bitcoin-ransom-demands>

For more on this theme:

(U.S.) Quantum Dawn Cyber Exercise Simulates a “Doomsday” Global Ransomware Attack

<https://www.cpomagazine.com/cyber-security/quantum-dawn-cyber-exercise-simulates-a-doomsday-global-ransomware-attack/>

(Global) #InfosecNA: The Benefits of Training Employees to Hack

<https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/news/teaching-employees-hack/>

(Global) WEBINAR: 4 Reasons Your Next Cybersecurity Tabletop Will Flop

<https://securityboulevard.com/2019/11/webinar-4-reasons-your-next-cybersecurity-tabletop-will-flop/>

(Singapore) Singapore completes two-day cyber resilience exercise

<https://www.insurancebusinessmag.com/asia/news/breaking-news/singapore-completes-twoday-cyber-resilience-exercise-193007.aspx>

PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

ISIS

US and Syria's Kurds target ISIS in joint action

The National: 24 November 2019

American-led forces and their Syrian Kurdish allies have carried out their biggest joint operation against ISIS in Syria since President Donald Trump ordered a pullback of U.S. forces there. Coalition officials say the operation captured dozens of militants. The news came on the same day Vice President Mike Pence visited Iraq and worked to reassure America's Kurdish allies in the region.

<https://www.thenational.ae/world/mena/us-and-syria-s-kurds-target-isis-in-joint-action-1.941739>

Caliph Abu Unknown: Succession and Legitimacy in the Islamic State

Haroro J. Ingram and Craig Whiteside – War on the Rocks: 25 November 2019

The ISIS announcement of Abu Ibrahim al-Hashimi al-Qurashi as the new “emir of the Muslims” was a surprise to many, given that he’s a relatively unknown figure. To understand what is happening in ISIS now, it is important to examine its history of succession.

<https://warontherocks.com/2019/11/caliph-abu-unknown-succession-and-legitimacy-in-the-islamic-state/>

For more on this theme:

Baghdadi's Elimination: ISIS Down but Not Out

<https://idsa.in/idsacomment/baghdadi-elimination-gg-dwivedi-131119>

Counting AK47s and learning trigonometry for snipers. How children were taught math under ISIS

<https://www.cnn.com/2019/11/19/middleeast/iraq-isis-museum/index.html>

ISIS expected to revamp operations in Syria, grow ability to target the West, says Pentagon watchdog

<https://www.militarytimes.com/news/your-military/2019/11/19/isis-expected-to-revamp-operations-in-syria-grow-ability-to-target-the-west-says-pentagon-watchdog/>

Islamic State claims rare attack in Algeria

<https://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2019/11/islamic-state-claims-rare-attack-in-algeria.php>

How Iraq helped to flush out ISIS chief Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi

<https://www.cnn.com/2019/11/16/middleeast/iraq-military-intelligence-al-baghdadi-hfr/index.html>

Islamic State may decentralise financing: US official

<https://www.deccanherald.com/international/islamic-state-may-decentralise-financing-us-official-778269.html>

Iraqi spy chief warns ISIS is rebuilding

<https://www.cnn.com/2019/11/18/middleeast/iraq-spy-chief-isis-rebuilding/index.html>

FOREIGN FIGHTERS

Denmark takes first passports off ISIS fighters after passing new law

Nicky Harley – The National: 26 November 2019

Denmark's new law allows the country to take away the passports of returning foreign fighters.

<https://www.thenational.ae/world/denmark-takes-first-passports-off-isis-fighters-after-passing-new-law-1.942946>

For more on this theme:

UK to repatriate British orphans of 'Islamic State' fighters

<https://www.dw.com/en/uk-to-repatriate-british-orphans-of-islamic-state-fighters/a-51359600>

'IS fighters not yet coming in droves, but alert must remain'

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2019/11/25/is-fighters-not-yet-coming-in-droves-but-alert-must-remain/>

The Observer view on Isis children stranded in Syria

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/nov/24/observer-view-on-isis-children-stranded-in-syria>

Germany repatriates Islamic State bride and children from Syria

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2019/11/24/germany-repatriates-islamic-state-bride-children-syria/>

Dutch state not obliged to take back Islamic State children: appeals court

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-syria-security-netherlands/dutch-state-not-obliged-to-take-back-islamic-state-children-appeals-court-idUSKBN1XW1N7>

Evidence is everything: How US is tackling return of Islamic State fighters

<https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/evidence-everything-why-us-has-been-hesitant-take-back-fighters>

WHITE NATIONALIST TERRORISM

What factors into far-right extremism? A UMN researcher wanted to find out

Hana Ikramuddin – Minnesota Daily: 26 November 2019

A University of Minnesota graduate student identified two traits that may come together to create a far-right extremist – a focus on hierarchical structures in society and the extent to which an individual identifies as “white.”

<https://www.mndaily.com/article/2019/11/n-what-factors-into-far-right-extremism-a-umn-researcher-wanted-to-find-out>

For more on this theme:

Are we witnessing the rise of a new terrorist trend?

<https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/countering-radical-right/are-we-witnessing-rise-new-terrorist-trend/>

He was a member of a white supremacist group. Here's how he got out.

<https://www.9news.com/article/news/investigations/former-white-supremacist-skinhead-christian-picciolini/73-94bf21c5-589f-4da3-9be8-47fc07008840>

Are We Entering a New Era of Far-Right Terrorism?

<https://warontherocks.com/2019/11/are-we-entering-a-new-era-of-far-right-terrorism/>

TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

How jihadists struck gold in Africa's Sahel

David Lewis and Ryan McNeill – Reuters: 22 November 2019

As al-Qaida and ISIS expand in Africa, hundreds of gold mines are bringing a billion-dollar trade within reach of the terror groups. Besides attacking industrial operations, two of the world's most feared extremist forces are tapping the \$2 billion informal gold trade in Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger.

<https://www.reuters.com/investigates/special-report/gold-africa-islamists/>

How the Sahel has slipped into a new post-Jihadist era

Bakary Sambe – The Conversation: 26 November 2019

So far, military operations in the Sahel have been less than successful against terrorism in the region. It's time to start addressing the situation differently.

<https://theconversation.com/how-the-sahel-has-slipped-into-a-new-post-jihadist-era-127538>

For more on this theme:

Taliban frees two Western prisoners, U.S. sees hope for wider Afghan peace

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-afghanistan-taliban/taliban-frees-two-western-prisoners-us-sees-hope-for-wider-afghan-peace-idUSKBN1XT0GF>

Iran Supplies Taliban With Weapons: Pentagon Report

<https://tolonews.com/afghanistan/iran-supplies-taliban-weapons-pentagon-report>

Tales of an American Lone Wolf Terrorist

<https://nationalinterest.org/feature/tales-american-lone-wolf-terrorist-98577>

Militant Group Vows Retaliation Following Indian Court Ruling

<https://www.voanews.com/extremism-watch/militant-group-vows-retaliation-following-indian-court-ruling>

Trends in Global Terrorism

<https://thesoufancenter.org/intelbrief-trends-in-global-terrorism/>

The Sahel is a Growing Arena of Competition for Jihadist Groups

<https://thesoufancenter.org/intelbrief-the-sahel-is-a-growing-arena-of-competition-for-jihadist-groups/>

A Crystal Ball For Predicting Terrorist Effectiveness? We Created One

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/brianuzzi/2019/11/22/a-crystal-ball-for-predicting-terrorist-effectiveness-we-created-one/#b44d392e0059>

The al Qaeda terrorist threat is alive

<https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/the-al-qaeda-terrorist-threat-is-alive>

Boko Haram Funded By €30bn Drug Market -Report

<http://saharareporters.com/2019/11/26/boko-haram-funded-€30bn-drug-market-report>

Al-Shabab's video gives partial view of its leader

<https://www.newdelhitimes.com/al-shababs-video-give-partial-view-of-its-leader/>

RADICALIZATION AND MESSAGING

View on Africa: Preventing violent extremism

Isel van Zyl – Institute for Security Studies: 20 November 2019

Many efforts to prevent and counter violent extremism in Africa are being carried out by local and international organizations. Despite this work and considerable amounts of funding for these initiatives, practitioners still struggle to determine what effect their efforts are having, both negative and positive. Based on an analysis of many projects in Central, East and West Africa, this report considers questions about donor funding, the duration of funding, theories of change, and monitoring and evaluation.

<https://issafrica.org/media-resources/videos-and-infographics/view-on-africa-preventing-violent-extremism>

Deported Afghans at risk of radicalization: study

Austin Davis – Deutsche Welle: 26 November 2019

A new study from Medico International and the Afghanistan Human Rights and Democracy Organization concludes that Afghans deported from European Union countries are at risk of death, economic hardship and radicalization.

<https://www.dw.com/en/afghanistan-deportations-germany-europe-violence-radicalization/a-51424791>

For more on this theme:

Tony Blair calls for Global Education Charter to fight extremism

<https://www.thenational.ae/world/tony-blair-calls-for-global-education-charter-to-fight-extremism-1.937801>

State to regulate madrassas in efforts against radicalization

<https://www.the-star.co.ke/news/2019-11-12-state-to-regulate-madrassas-in-efforts-against-radicalisation/>

Profile of a Lone Terrorist: Who They Are, What They Believe, Why They Attack

<https://www.hstoday.us/subject-matter-areas/counterterrorism/profile-of-a-lone-terrorist-who-they-are-what-they-believe-why-they-attack/>

Religious leaders unite in fight against extremism

<https://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2019/11/26/religious-leaders-unite-in-fight-against-extremism/>

Nazi Symbols and Racist Memes: Combating School Intolerance

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/11/23/us/extremism-schools-white-supremacy.html>

Can We Fight Radicalization by Fixing Terrorists' Problems with Life?

<https://www.hstoday.us/subject-matter-areas/counterterrorism/can-we-fight-radicalization-by-fixing-terrorists-problems-with-life/>

Radicalizing in the Name of Islam

<https://www.meforum.org/59292/johanna-markind-radicalizing-in-name-of-islam>

'British IS children at risk of radicalisation', says former MI6 counter-terrorism chief

<https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/british-is-children-at-risk-of-radicalisation-says-former-mi6-counterterrorism-chief-a4296971.html>

TERRORISM AND THE INTERNET

European police attack Islamic State's online presence

Stephanie van den Berg – Reuters: 25 November 2019

In a major blow to terrorist radicalization efforts, European law enforcement agencies have stripped Islamic State propaganda from popular online services. Over 26,000 items, including videos, publications, social media accounts and communication channels, were flagged by authorities as being terrorist propaganda. Europol, the European Union's law enforcement agency, worked with nine of the largest internet platforms.

<https://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-europol-cyber-islamic-state/europe-police-agency-hits-islamic-state-servers-in-blow-to-jihadist-publicity-idUKKBN1XZ1EO?rpc=401&>

For more on this theme:

The Nazi in your feed: Regulating social media and hate speech

<https://www.lowyinstitute.org/the-interpreter/nazi-your-feed-regulating-social-media-and-hate-speech>

How Machine Learning Can Find Extremists on Social Media

<https://insights.som.yale.edu/insights/how-machine-learning-can-find-extremists-on-social-media>

Governments need to work with tech companies to curb hate speech, says Facebook anti-terror chief

<https://www.thejournal.ie/social-media-facebook-hate-speech-terrorism-4897007-Nov2019/>

Digital footprint led to the arrest ISIS terror module in Assam

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/digital-footprint-led-to-the-arrest-isis-terror-module-in-assam/articleshow/72246453.cms>

COUNTERTERRORISM STRATEGIES

From child soldier to child 'terrorist': safeguarding innocence from counter-terrorism

Sandra Krähenmann and Paulien Vandendriessche - International Committee of the Red Cross: 20 November 2019

Despite legal prohibitions, children continue to be recruited and used in various capacities during armed conflict, in some cases by armed groups labeled as “terrorist.” It is essential that policies and practices countering extreme violence by such groups treat children first and foremost as victims, irrespective of their association with armed groups, and work toward solutions in the best interest of the child.

<https://blogs.icrc.org/law-and-policy/2019/11/20/child-soldier-counter-terrorism/>

For more on this theme:

Balancing act: Anti-terror efforts and humanitarian principles

<https://www.thenewhumanitarian.org/feature/2019/11/26/balancing-act-anti-terror-efforts-and-humanitarian-principles>

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