

THE MARSHALL CENTER

transnational weekly



A CURRENT AWARENESS SERVICE FROM THE MARSHALL CENTER

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COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

It's time to start treating Ukraine's corrupt judiciary as a criminal syndicate

Mykhailo Zhernakov – Atlantic Council: 1 December 2020

With Ukraine's anti-corruption reforms finally beginning to produce results, the old elites have hit back. The Constitutional Court of Ukraine declared that some powers of the National Agency on Corruption Prevention are unconstitutional. The decision has sparked a political crisis in Ukraine and underlined the scale of the challenge posed by the country's unreformed judiciary.

<https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/ukrainealert/its-time-to-start-treating-ukraines-corrupt-judiciary-as-a-criminal-syndicate/>

Region's defence and security sectors face rising corruption risk

Emerging Europe: 9 December 2020

Transparency International's Government Defence Integrity Index found that half the Central and Eastern European countries face high risks of corruption in their defense and security sectors.

<https://emerging-europe.com/news/regions-defence-and-security-sectors-face-rising-corruption-risk/>

Full report:

Progress [Un]Made – Defence Governance in Central and Eastern Europe

<https://ti-defence.org/publications/defence-sector-corruption-governance-central-eastern-europe-cee/>

For more on this theme:

3 ways to fight corruption and restore trust in leadership

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/12/anti-corruption-transparency-restore-trust-in-leadership/>

Cairns Aquarium accused of misusing coronavirus funding, referred to Crime and Corruption Commission by State Government

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-11-27/cairns-aquarium-accused-of-misusing-coronavirus-funding/12927776>

Cash-for-licences scam uncovered in Romania, says anti-corruption agency

<https://www.euronews.com/2020/12/01/cash-for-licences-scam-uncovered-in-romania-says-anti-corruption-agency>

A Ruling Party Official's Arrest Boosts South Africa's Fight Against Corruption

<https://www.worldpoliticsreview.com/articles/29255/in-south-africa-corruption-fight-gets-a-boost-from-arrest-of-anc-boss>

France's former 'Bling-Bling President' Sarkozy in court on corruption charges

<https://www.pri.org/stories/2020-12-01/frances-former-bling-bling-president-sarkozy-court-corruption-charges>

GRECO comes down hard on Greece over anti-corruption measures

<https://www.neweurope.eu/article/greco-comes-down-hard-on-greece-over-anti-corruption-measures/>

DRUG TRAFFICKING

The Endless War to Control Northwest Colombia's Drug Routes

Javier Villalba – InSight Crime: 10 December 2020

The murder of the indigenous governor of Colombia's Ríos Valle y Boroboro reserve appears to be a demonstration of power by the Urabeños drug gang. The group gained territory across the northern department of Choco with the goal of defeating the National Liberation Army and controlling the area for moving drugs, migrants and weapons.

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/analysis/endless-war-drug-trafficking/>

Why Europe's big cannabis route is so hard to shut

Kostas Koukoumakas – BBC: 7 December 2020

One of the most established drug-trafficking routes in the world runs through the Balkans. The U.S. State Department's annual drug report this year described Albania as a "home base for transnational organized crime networks involved in trafficking illicit narcotics across Europe and beyond."

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-55069055>

For more on this theme:

Sydney's cocaine obsession fuels gang violence: NSW Police Commissioner

<https://www.smh.com.au/national/nsw/sydney-s-cocaine-obsession-fuels-gang-violence-nsw-police-commissioner-20201126-p56i7t.html>

Special Report: Burner phones and banking apps: Meet the Chinese 'brokers' laundering Mexican drug money

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-mexico-china-cartels-specialreport/special-report-burner-phones-and-banking-apps-meet-the-chinese-brokers-laundering-mexican-drug-money-idUSKBN28D1M4>

Mexico's so-called 'War on Drugs' hasn't been all for naught

<https://www.aei.org/foreign-and-defense-policy/mexicos-so-called-war-on-drugs-hasnt-been-all-for-naught/>

Irish navy urged to send ships to west Africa to stop smugglers

<https://www.irishtimes.com/news/crime-and-law/irish-navy-urged-to-send-ships-to-west-africa-to-stop-smugglers-1.4426802>

East Asia, SEA fastest-growing shabu markets – world report

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2020/12/08/2062249/east-asia-sea-fastest-growing-shabu-markets-world-report>

Malaysia's Narcotics Nightmare – Analysis

<https://www.eurasiareview.com/06122020-malaysias-narcotics-nightmare-analysis/>

Belgium steps up cocaine trade fight with Port of Antwerp bans, prosecutor

<https://www.brusselstimes.com/news/belgium-all-news/justice-belgium/144627/belgium-steps-up-cocaine-trade-fight-with-port-of-antwerp-bans-prosecutor-justice-minister-vincent-van-quickenborne-smuggling-illegal-drug-trade-europe/>

Planned law on narcotics trade to give drug dealers food for thought

<https://nation.africa/kenya/business/planned-law-on-narcotics-trade-to-give-drug-dealers-food-for-thought-3221366>

TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

Social Media Used to Sell Exotic Animals in Brazil

Isaac Norris and Katie Jones – InSight Crime: 9 December 2020

In recent years, wildlife traffickers have more heavily relied upon social networking applications to make sales in Brazil, taking advantage of the relative anonymity and global reach such platforms offer. And the use of online platforms has been exacerbated by COVID-19 restrictions.

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/brief/social-media-wildlife-brazil/>

Endemic Corruption Is Reason Behind Alarming Wildlife Trafficking From Nigeria

Timothy Obiezu – Voice of America: 8 December 2020

A new report details how endemic corruption, weak or absent rule of law, low levels of development and hot spots of armed conflict have left the region wide open to exploitation by well-organized transnational criminal gangs. Since 2015, Nigeria has emerged as the world's primary exit point for ivory and pangolin scales trafficked from Africa to Asia.

<https://www.voanews.com/science-health/endemic-corruption-reason-behind-alarming-wildlife-trafficking-nigeria>

Full report:

Out of Africa: How West and Central Africa have become the epicentre of ivory and pangolin scale trafficking to Asia

<https://eia-international.org/report/how-west-and-central-africa-have-become-the-epicentre-of-ivory-and-pangolin-scale-trafficking-to-asia-out-of-africa/>

For more on this theme:

Africa's Pandemic-fueled Conservation Crisis

<https://www.biographic.com/africas-pandemic-fueled-conservation-crisis/>

Illegal logging, a problem afflicting the beekeeping industry in Yucatan

<https://www.theyucantimes.com/2020/11/illegal-logging-a-problem-afflicting-the-beekeeping-industry-in-yucatan/>

'Timber Mafia' threatens the future of Romania's ancient forests

<https://www.aljazeera.com/features/2020/11/26/romania-disappearing-forests>

Kenyan farmers and young guides enlisted to protect city forests

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-kenya-forest-environment-feature-idUSKBN28A0XS>

Mobile phone App to support fight against illegal fishing launched

<https://www.ghanaiantimes.com.gh/mobile-phone-app-to-support-fight-against-illegal-fishing-launched/>

Insights from the Incarcerated: An assessment of the illicit supply chain in wildlife in South Africa

<https://www.traffic.org/publications/reports/insights-from-the-incarcerated/>

Coronavirus risk grows as animals move through wildlife trade

<https://news.mongabay.com/2020/12/coronavirus-risk-grows-as-animals-move-through-wildlife-trade/>

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND IRREGULAR MIGRATION

Child-trafficking in Mali increasing because of conflict and COVID-19

U.N. Refugee Agency: 1 December 2020

More children have been trafficked, forced to work in gold mines and to fight as soldiers in Mali this year as conflict worsened and COVID-19 shut schools, according to the United Nations.

<https://www.unhcr.org/news/press/2020/12/5fc62ead4/child-trafficking-mali-increasing-conflict-covid-19.html>

U.S. Supreme Court Assesses Corporate Complicity in Child Slavery

David J. Scheffer – Council on Foreign Relations: 9 December 2020

Should U.S. companies be held responsible for child slavery on West African farms where cocoa beans are harvested? The top U.S. court's decision could have major consequences for chocolate companies and global supply chains.

<https://www.cfr.org/article/us-supreme-court-assesses-corporate-complicity-child-slavery>

For more on this theme:

Brazil's Dirty List – Not Making a Dent in Modern Slavery

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/analysis/brazil-dirty-list-modern-slavery/>

Croatia Urged to Toughen its Response to Human Trafficking

<https://balkaninsight.com/2020/12/03/croatia-urged-to-toughen-its-response-to-human-trafficking/>

The pandemic is fuelling slavery and sexual exploitation, UN experts warn

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/11/1078792>

UNESCO trains youth organizations on Migration in Africa and Europe

<https://www.devdiscourse.com/article/other/1358045-unesco-trains-youth-organizations-on-migration-in-africa-and-europe>

Women who escaped slavery turn anti-trafficking crusaders in India

<https://news.trust.org/item/20201201115034-lfjem/>

Child sex trafficking: It's probably not what you think it is

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/11/25/us/child-sex-trafficking/index.html>

Aftershock: Abuse, exploitation & human trafficking in the wake of COVID-19 - Global Protection Update (November 2020)

<https://reliefweb.int/report/world/aftershock-abuse-exploitation-human-trafficking-wake-covid-19-global-protection-update>

US Expresses Concern About Bangladesh's Transfer of Rohingya to Remote Island

<https://www.benarnews.org/english/news/bengali/island-check-12102020160218.html>

PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

INTERNET GOVERNANCE

Can We Advance Policies Towards a Safe Transnational Internet Market for Medicines?

Mark Datysgeld – CircleID: 9 December 2020

This article focuses on the sale of medicines using the internet. No clear norms have been advanced that address the topic.

<http://www.circleid.com/posts/20201209-policies-towards-a-safe-transnational-internet-market-for-me/>

For more on this theme:

(Global) UN Internet Governance Forum: Risks and regulation of AI in healthcare

<https://www.medianama.com/2020/12/223-igf-ai-healthcare/>

(Global) Governance of AI in Global Pulse's policy work: Zooming in on Human Rights and Ethical Frameworks

<https://www.unglobalpulse.org/2020/12/governance-of-ai-in-global-pulses-policy-work-zooming-in-on-human-rights-and-ethical-frameworks/>

(China) Huawei's Global Advancement of Alternative Internet Protocols

<https://jamestown.org/program/huaweis-global-advancement-of-alternative-internet-protocols/>

INTERNET FREEDOM

Kazakhstan: As election beckons, authorities tighten control on internet

Almaz Kumenov – Eurasianet: 7 December 2020

In the run-up to next month's parliamentary election, authorities in Kazakhstan have mounted another drive to snoop on the public's internet usage and limit access to online resources deemed suspect. This control measure has been sold by the government as a digital security initiative.

<https://eurasianet.org/kazakhstan-as-election-beckons-authorities-tighten-control-on-internet>

For more on this theme:

(Africa) Why internet shutdowns are bad for Africa and its future

<https://www.thecitizen.co.tz/tanzania/oped/-why-internet-shutdowns-are-bad-for-africa-and-its-future-3221966>

(China) Tripadvisor shares drop following China app ban

<https://techcrunch.com/2020/12/08/tripadvisor-china-banned/>

(Europe) EU wants to add internet hate speech as a crime

<https://www.theportugalnews.com/news/2020-12-05/eu-wants-to-add-internet-hate-speech-as-a-crime/57076>

CYBER ATTACKS, THREATS AND VULNERABILITIES

Research: Millions of smart devices vulnerable to hacking

Frank Bajak – The Associated Press: 8 December 2020

Researchers at the cyber security firm Forescout Technologies say they have identified vulnerabilities in software widely used by millions of connected devices – flaws that could be exploited by hackers to penetrate business and home computer networks and disrupt them.

<https://apnews.com/article/hacking-software-17d67bd69718c2d0d5f6e2493285abc2>

For more on this theme:

(U.S.) FBI and Homeland Security warn of APT attacks on US think tanks

<https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/security/fbi-and-homeland-security-warn-of-apt-attacks-on-us-think-tanks/>

(U.S., Global) Cyberattacks Discovered on Vaccine Distribution Operations

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/12/03/us/politics/vaccine-cyberattacks.html>

(U.S., Europe) EU drug regulator hacked, data on COVID-19 vaccine accessed

<https://apnews.com/article/technology-europe-hacking-coronavirus-pandemic-308f9ffc3edd95946262f1c76dba9959>

(UAE, Israel) UAE target of cyber attacks after Israel deal, official says

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-emirates-tech-israel/uae-target-of-cyber-attacks-after-israel-deal-official-says-idUSKBN28GOBW>

CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING

The GCC's digital economy is growing, but risks must be managed

Dominik Treeck – Atlantic Council: 9 December 2020

Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) governments seeking to diversify their economies and position for growth are rightly focused on the importance of digitization. However, scale and sustainability require serious attention to associated risks.

<https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/menasource/the-gccs-digital-economy-is-growing-but-risks-must-be-managed/>

For more on this theme:

(Asia) World Bank highlights importance of bridging Digital Divide in Central Asia

<https://www.devdiscourse.com/article/technology/1359273-world-bank-highlights-importance-of-bridging-digital-divide-in-central-asia>

(U.S.) Preparing the cyber workforce of the future

<https://defensesystems.com/articles/2020/12/09/cyber-workforce-insa-solarium.aspx>

(Europe) High-speed internet lines to surge in Europe as virus boosts demand: Study

<https://telecom.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/high-speed-internet-lines-to-surge-in-europe-as-virus-boosts-demand-study/79558251>

PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

World Economic Forum establishes principles so cybercrime is not 'so ridiculously easy'

Teri Robinson – SC Magazine: 8 December 2020

The World Economic Forum's Partnership against Cybercrime Working Group's recommendations for organizations facing cyber crime challenges include: promoting principles for public/private cooperation to combat cyber crime, taking collaborative action to disrupt cyber crime ecosystems and partnering to combat global cyber crime.

<https://www.scmagazine.com/home/security-news/cybercrime/world-economic-forum-establishes-principles-so-cybercrime-is-not-so-ridiculously-easy/>

Full report:

Partnership against Cybercrime

http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_Partnership_against_Cybercrime_report_2020.pdf

For more on this theme:

(Global) Acronis and World Economic Forum Partner to Combat Global Cybercrime

<https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/news/acronis-world-economic-forum/>

(Global) Expand Internet connectivity so no one gets left behind, Google CEO urges

<https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/expand-internet-connectivity-so-no-one-gets-left-behind-google-ceo-urges>

(Africa) Liquid Telecom – It is time for African businesses to partner with educators

<https://www.htxt.co.za/2020/12/07/liquid-telecom-it-is-time-for-african-businesses-to-partner-with-educators/>

PROTECTION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Brazil Hits Enter on Digital Piracy Crackdown

Alessandro Ford – InSight Crime: 1 December 2020

Brazil launched a nationwide operation against digital piracy in conjunction with United States and United Kingdom law enforcement, but doubts remain about how connected the practice is to more traditional aspects of organized crime.

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/brief/brazil-hits-enter-on-digital-piracy-crackdown/>

For more on this theme:

(Global) Cybercrime could cost the world almost \$1 trillion in 2020, McAfee says

<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/technology/cybercrime-could-cost-the-world-almost-1-trillion/article33269047.ece>

(India, U.S.) India, US Sign Deal on Intellectual Property Cooperation

<https://tribune.com/india-us-sign-deal-on-intellectual-property-cooperation/>

(China, U.S.) Viewpoint: China Exploiting Supply Chain Vulnerabilities

<https://www.nationaldefensemagazine.org/articles/2020/12/9/china-exploiting-supply-chain-vulnerabilities>

CYBER EXERCISES AND TRAINING

Hunt Forward Estonia: Estonia, US strengthen partnership in cyber domain with joint operation

U.S. Cyber Command: 3 December 2020

Estonian and U.S. cyber commands jointly conducted a defensive cyber operation on Estonian Defence Forces' networks. Working together, cyber specialists from the U.S., referred to as "Hunt Forward" teams, and Estonian cyber personnel from Defense Forces Cyber Command, hunted for malicious cyber actors on critical networks and platforms.

<https://www.cybercom.mil/Media/News/Article/2433245/hunt-forward-estonia-estonia-us-strengthen-partnership-in-cyber-domain-with-joi/>

For more on this theme:

(Global) Engaging Remote Workers to Defend Information and Systems With Gamification

<https://www.cpomagazine.com/cyber-security/engaging-remote-workers-to-defend-information-and-systems-with-gamification/>

(Israel) Cyber training program for released soldiers wins Innovation Award

<https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/cyber-training-program-for-released-soldiers-wins-innovation-award-649450>

(U.S.) Army Making Big Push to Train, Retain Coders

<https://www.nationaldefensemagazine.org/articles/2020/11/30/army-making-big-push-to-train-retain-coders>

PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

ISIS AND FOREIGN FIGHTERS

Mozambique Terrorist Group Poised to Establish an Islamic Emirate

Lawrence A. Franklin – Gatestone Institute: 3 December 2020

Radical Islamists from Kenya and Tanzania have teamed up with ISIS to transform what was initially a low-intensity ethnic rebellion into a full-fledged Islamic jihad against Mozambique's central government.

<https://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/16816/mozambique-terrorism-islamists>

Islamic State Hind Province's Kashmir Campaign and Pan-Indian Capabilities

Animesh Roul – The Jamestown Foundation: 3 December 2020

This article explores the emergence and consolidation of Islamic State Hind and how Kashmir remains Indian jihadism's epicenter in terms of Islamic State media and armed campaigns in the country.

<https://jamestown.org/program/islamic-state-hind-provinces-kashmir-campaign-and-pan-indian-capabilities/>

For more on this theme:

Islamic State increases attacks in Iraq's Sunni areas

<https://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2020/12/iraq-syria-saudi-isis.html>

Islamic State in Afghanistan is a Major Threat

<https://menafn.com/1101219975/Islamic-State-in-Afghanistan-is-a-Major-Threat&source=28>

Charging the 'Beatles': Inside the case against IS militants

<https://apnews.com/article/race-and-ethnicity-islamic-state-group-william-barr-only-on-ap-syria-b307a-4ecd3b59d4bff461b18d6e957ab>

39 Islamic State-Linked Abu Sayyaf Militants Surrender in the Philippines

<https://www.benarnews.org/english/news/philippine/ph-militants-surrender-12052020092420.html>

US Offers Resources to Help 'Contain, Degrade and Defeat' Mozambique Insurgency

<https://www.voanews.com/africa/us-offers-resources-help-contain-degrade-and-defeat-mozambique-insurgency>

Finnish minister to face no charges over push to bring home Islamic State children

<https://uk.reuters.com/article/finland-foreign-minister-impeachment/finnish-minister-to-face-no-charges-over-push-to-bring-home-islamic-state-children-idUKKBN28J2B6>

Islamic State Fighters' First Claimed Attack in Tanzania: Strategic Calculations and Political Context

<https://jamestown.org/program/islamic-state-fighters-first-claimed-attack-in-tanzania-strategic-calculations-and-political-context/>

Uzbekistan repatriates women and children linked to Islamic State in Syria

<https://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2020/12/uzbekistan-repatriate-islamic-state-women-children-syria-hol.html>

TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

Lebanon's Hezbollah suing those accusing it of port blast

The Associated Press: 4 December 2020

A former Lebanese Christian member of Parliament and a website affiliated with a Christian party in Lebanon are Hezbollah's latest targets in the legal arena.

<https://apnews.com/article/middle-east-beirut-lebanon-militant-groups-671cb12bc0366ad53d79089e4aceb3a4>

Mozambique's Crisis Requires a New Playbook to Fight Extremism

Leanne Erdberg Steadman; Bethany L. McGann; Colin Thomas-Jensen – United States Institute of Peace: 3 December 2020

Militarized approaches to terrorism have limited utility, particularly in Africa. USIP argues that the focus should be on addressing what drives conflict.

<https://www.usip.org/publications/2020/12/mozambiques-crisis-requires-new-playbook-fight-extremism>

For more on this theme:

Al-Qaeda: The core problem

<https://www.lowyinstitute.org/the-interpreter/al-qaeda-core-problem>

Al-Qaeda fighters in Syria return to Yemen's Marib

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20201201-al-qaeda-fighters-in-syria-return-to-yemens-marib/>

Tanzania Teams Up with Mozambique to Contain Terrorists

<https://www.voanews.com/africa/tanzania-teams-mozambique-contain-terrorists>

Turkey remains a transit hub for foreign terrorists, UN report reveals

<https://www.nordicmonitor.com/2020/11/turkey-remains-a-transit-hub-for-foreign-terrorists-un-report-reveals/>

EU Task Force Takuba in Mali

<https://www.cfr.org/blog/eu-task-force-takuba-mali>

Indonesia: Putting the Sigi Attack in Context

<https://www.benarnews.org/english/commentaries/alif-satria-commentary-mit-12042020180200.html>

Jihadism in Spain: a silent but real threat

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/jihadism-in-spain-a-silent-but-real-threat/article-show/79638030.cms>

Mali Interim Government Considers Talks With Islamist Militants

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-12-03/mali-open-to-talks-with-islamists-in-seeming-departure-from-ally>

Reports of Al-Qaeda's Demise are Greatly Exaggerated | Opinion

<https://www.newsweek.com/reports-al-qaedas-demise-are-greatly-exaggerated-opinion-1552904>

Al-Shabaab Militias 'Smuggle' Small Arms Through Somaliland

<https://thetaiwantimes.com/al-shabaab-militias-smuggle-small-arms-through-somaliland/7942>

RADICALIZATION AND MESSAGING

Christchurch terrorist's radicalisation shows the limits of surveillance and censorship

Stilgherrian – ZDNet: 9 December 2020

The final report of the Royal Commission of Inquiry into the terrorist attack on Christchurch masjidain (mosques) on 15 March 2019 was published last week. New Zealand's inquiry found YouTube and Facebook were central to the right-wing mass murderer's radicalization but detecting the lone-wolf attacker would have required connecting dots that the social media platforms didn't have.

<https://www.zdnet.com/article/christchurch-terrorists-radicalisation-shows-the-limits-of-surveillance-and-censorship/>

Ex-Boko Haram fighters deradicalized, but still unreconciled

Shola Lawal and Sani Adam – The Christian Science Monitor: 8 December 2020

Can radical militants be rehabilitated? Deradicalization is only part of the equation. The rest depends on wounded communities deciding whether to accept them back – and deep, difficult dialogue.

<https://www.csmonitor.com/World/Africa/2020/1208/Ex-Boko-Haram-fighters-deradicalized-but-still-unreconciled>

For more on this theme:

Europe Doubles Down on Online Terrorist Content

<https://www.hstoday.us/subject-matter-areas/transportation/europe-doubles-down-on-online-terrorist-content/>

Teaching anti-terrorism: how France and England use schools to counter radicalisation

<https://theconversation.com/teaching-anti-terrorism-how-france-and-england-use-schools-to-counter-radicalisation-150921>

Counties must build community trust in combating extremism

<https://www.capitalfm.co.ke/news/2020/11/counties-must-build-community-trust-in-combating-extremism/>

Islamist referrals to counter-extremism scheme rise for first time since 2016

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/prevent-extremism-statistics-islamist-far-right-b1762180.html>

Islamic Defenders Front & the rise of radicalization in Indonesia and Popular Front of India fanning radicalization in India- An Inside View

<https://www.newdelhitimes.com/islamic-defenders-front-the-rise-of-radicalization-in-indonesia-and-popular-front-of-india-fanning-radicalization-in-india-an-inside-view/>

Indonesia's Program to De-radicalize MIT Militants Off-Target, Analysts Say

<https://www.benarnews.org/english/news/special-reports/id-mit-deradicalization-12042020145509.html>

IRREGULAR WARFARE: SOFT POWER

China's inroads into Slovak universities: Protecting academic freedoms from authoritarian malign interference

*Matej Šimalčík and Adam Kalivoda – Central European Institute of Asian Studies:
December 2020*

This report attempts to provide the most comprehensive record to date of how Slovak academic institutions engage with China and evaluate the nature, volume and transparency of these interactions.

<https://ceias.eu/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/universities-paper.pdf>

For more on this theme:

Twitter attack will only further harm China's collapsing soft power

<https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/twitter-attack-will-only-further-harm-chinas-collapsing-soft-power/>

U.S. ends exchange programs with China, calling them 'propaganda'

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-china-exchange-program/u-s-ends-exchange-programs-with-china-calling-them-propaganda-idUSKBN28F05U>

China's soft power is failing in Australia, despite opening Confucius institutes all over

<https://theprint.in/opinion/chinas-soft-power-is-failing-in-australia-despite-opening-confucius-institutes-all-over/557202/>

Scotland must be wary of China's bid to spread its influence

<https://www.thenational.scot/news/18929985.scotland-must-wary-chinas-bid-spread-influence/>

IRREGULAR WARFARE: DISINFORMATION AND MALIGN INFLUENCE

Russian Disinformation Popularizes Sputnik V Vaccine in Africa

Beach Gray and Neil Edwards – Council on Foreign Relations: 10 December 2020

In Africa, perceptions of Russia's flagship vaccine, Sputnik V, are largely positive, even though it didn't undergo the rigorous clinical trials that other vaccines have. Sputnik V seems to be as much about public relations and Russian soft power as about stopping the spread of COVID-19.

<https://www.cfr.org/blog/russian-disinformation-popularizes-sputnik-v-vaccine-africa>

For more on this theme:

China's online meddling goes beyond the Great Firewall

<https://www.lowyinstitute.org/the-interpreter/china-s-online-meddling-goes-beyond-great-firewall>

EU vows to crack down on disinformation targeting democracies

<https://www.dw.com/en/eu-vows-to-crack-down-on-disinformation-targeting-democracies/a-55814940>

CSIS accuses Russia, China and Iran of spreading COVID-19 disinformation

<https://globalnews.ca/news/7494689/csis-accuses-russia-china-iran-coronavirus-covid-19-disinformation/>