

ICSR Update

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ICSR is a unique partnership in which King's College London, the University of Pennsylvania, the Interdisciplinary Center Herzliya, and the Regional Center on Conflict Prevention Amman are equal stakeholders.

Our joint mission is to bring together knowledge and leadership to counter the growth of radicalisation and political violence.

Dear Friend,

Much has happened at ICSR since we sent you the last issue of *ICSR Update*.

First, and most importantly, let me tell you about the hugely successful launch of our policy report *Countering Online Radicalisation – A Strategy for Action*. Over the last three weeks, the report's co-author Tim Stevens and I have briefed numerous policymakers on both sides of the Atlantic, including the British Home Secretary and senior officials from relevant agencies, and will follow further invitations from Washington DC, Brussels and a number of other national capitals in the coming weeks. Indeed, I am confident that some of our recommendations will soon be implemented.

A small selection of the many positive responses to *Countering Online Radicalisation* can be found on the second page of this newsletter. If you still haven't read the report, it can be downloaded free of charge at www.icsr.info.

I am also delighted to let you know that we will soon launch a major research project on radicalisation and de-radicalisation in prisons – a pressing issue which many policymakers are currently struggling with.

Before your delve into the newsletter, please note that ICSR will again be co-hosting the ITI conference, which – this year – will be taking place in Washington DC. More information about this unique annual gathering of officials and policymakers can be found in the attached flyer.

As always, if you have any questions or ideas, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Dr. Peter Neumann
Director, ICSR

Major New Research Project on Prison Radicalisation To Be Launched

ICSR is about to launch a major research project looking at prison radicalisation and de-radicalisation in more than a dozen countries.

In developing their policies in this area, governments have been slow in capitalising on other countries' experiences. The ICSR study will compare and evaluate government policies on terrorist and extremist prisoners as well as the various programmes and initiatives that have been aimed at 'de-radicalising' them. It will produce the first systematic overview and critical analysis of best practices in this area, and allow governments, the media and experts to learn from a wide range of experiences across the world.

The project will be carried out in partnership with the University of Maryland, and receives funding from the governments of the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, and Australia.

New Papers

Jeff Cozens' paper 'The Culture of Global Jihad' is now available. Part of the Future Actions Series, the paper examines why jihadist culture represents a unique challenge to Western governments, and what can be done to address it. It can be downloaded free of charge at www.icsr.info.

Reactions to Countering Online Radicalisation

This report is a significant advance on all that has gone before, it opens a new dimension to debate... As though the adults had finally arrived, and [the] squabbling children had been sent back to their respective naughty corners.

John Ozimek, The Guardian, 19 March 2009

I found this report particularly interesting... I served on the Harvard Berkman Center's *Internet Safety Technical Task Force* which, like this British study, came to the conclusion that technological tools – while promising – are not the best first line of defense against a problem that has its roots in the real offline world.

Larry Magid, CNet News, 11 March 2009

The solutions offered are correct. The problem is, they are not easy answers, and whether we are looking at protecting personal information in a commercial organization or combating extremists, most institutions only want easy answers.

Kent Anderson, Politically Motivated Computer Crime & Hacktivism, 10 March 2009

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Paper Launch: 'Lashkar e-Taiba: From 9/11 to Mumbai'

Following extensive research in Pakistan and India, ICSR Associate Fellow Stephen Tankel has written a concise analysis of the Pakistani group Lashkar e-Taiba (LeT), looking at its strategic evolution since 9/11, its ambiguous relationship with the Pakistani state, and the group's likely future trajectory.

The most devastating terrorist attack against Western targets outside of Afghanistan, Iraq or Pakistan in the recent past was LeT's sixty-hour operation in Mumbai during the final days of November 2008. Yet little continues to be known about this group, which – until recently – focused its energies on the conflict in Kashmir and waging a wider war against India.

The paper – which will be the first in the new ICSR Paper Series *Developments in Radicalisation and Political Violence* – is one of the most comprehensive, in-depth and up-to-date overviews of a group that has only recently come out of obscurity.

It provides a glimpse of Stephen Tankel's forthcoming book *Pure Jihad: The Evolution of Lashkar e-Taiba*, which will be published by Hurst in early 2010.

The paper will be launched with an event in London at the end of April.

News from Our Partners

UPENN: Harvey Rubin Addresses National Academy of Sciences on Biosecurity

Together with his co-authors, ICSR Partner Harvey Rubin outlined the main conclusions of their report on 'Countering Biological Threats' at the National Academy of Sciences in Washington DC on 13 March.

The panel stressed that biosecurity is facing unprecedented challenges because of the ease with which dangerous pathogens can nowadays be obtained or produced. Still, there are important 'toolboxes' that can be used to mitigate the problem, especially by improving human resources, policy, and physical infrastructure.

The report makes a series of practical recommendations, including the broadening of partnerships; the involvement of additional stakeholders; and the improvement of risk analyses and metrics. More information on the report – as well as instructions for ordering copies – can be found on the ISTAR website: www.istar.upenn.edu.

KING'S: Lawrence Freedman Wins 'World's Most Important Award for Non-Fiction'

ICSR Partner Sir Lawrence Freedman, one of Britain's most distinguished historians, has won the 2009 Lionel Gelber Prize for his book *A Choice of Enemies: America Confronts the Middle East* (Weidenfeld & Nicolson).

'If you were to select only one book to understand the turmoil and confusion of events in the Middle East over the past 30 years, this is a perfect choice', said Noah Rubin, Chair of the Prize. Freedman's book examines three decades of U.S. involvement in the Middle East, reaching back to the presidency of Jimmy Carter. According to Jury Chair George Russell, 'A Choice of Enemies is an epic work of scholarship and analysis, covering a huge swath of U.S. foreign policy engagement in revelatory detail'.

The Economist magazine has called the Lionel Gelber Prize 'the world's most important award for non-fiction'.

RCCP/JID: First Meeting of Middle Eastern Expert Advisory Group

The *Regional Centre on Conflict Prevention* in Amman organized the first meeting of the new Expert Advisory Group in Istanbul in late February. Sponsored by the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, the meeting was titled *Power in the Middle East: Whither Regional Hegemons*. It explored issues of power dynamics and trends toward regional axes, resulting in a policy paper which will be published in the coming weeks.

ICT/IDC: Dates for Executive Programme in Counterterrorism Studies Announced

This year's Executive Certificate Programme in Counterterrorism Studies at the International Institute for Counterterrorism in Herzliya will take place from 28 June to 17 July 2009. The programme combines academic study, simulation models, and onsite briefings. More information, including registration details, can be found at <http://www.ict.org.il/CTStudies/CounterTerrorismStudies/tabid/73/Default.aspx>.