



ORG Newsletter July 2016

Paul Rogers' Monthly Briefing



A World After IS

Developments in the past month complicate the view that IS is in serious and possibly terminal decline, but do throw light on the wider dimension of a possible post-IS world. IS is under severe pressure from the coalition's intense air war in Iraq and Syria, killing around a thousand supporters each month. Its responses give some indication of what will evolve if IS as a defined geographical caliphate is eventually suppressed. [Read more >>](#)

ORG News & Publications



New Film Profiles ORG's Work

Oxford Research Group (ORG) has produced a new short film to showcase its work. The three minute film features ORG's Professor Paul Rogers and Gabrielle Rifkind as well as our patron Dr Hans Blix and leaders of our dialogue projects in Palestine and Israel. It vividly explains the crucial importance of ORG's work in fostering sustainable alternatives to militarism and safe spaces for strategic dialogue. [Watch the film >>](#)



Brexit: Whither UK Defence and Foreign Policy?

Brexit has caused division and a deep sense of uncertainty over the future of the country. This briefing by Richard Reeve and Tim Street considers what the Leave vote and ensuing changes to the British government might mean in the short, medium and long term for the UK's defence and foreign policy, including decision-making and accountability mechanisms, and the still-urgent need to build sustainable security. [Read more >>](#)



Brexit and the UK's Uncertain Nuclear Future

In the aftermath of Brexit, this briefing by Tim Street explores the key issues surrounding the decision to replace the UK's Trident nuclear weapons system with the next-generation Successor programme. It stresses the need for MPs to explore the issues thoroughly, rather than rushing into a final decision. [Read more >>](#)



Open Letter to the Prime Minister on Trident Replacement Debate

ORG sent an open letter to new Prime Minister Theresa May signed by former military commanders, senior academic, diplomatic and political figures and other leading NGOs, calling on her to delay any decision on replacing the UK's nuclear weapons system until after parliament's summer recess. [Read the letter >>](#)



ORG and RCSS Release Second Issue of Arabic Conflict Resolution Journal

ORG has published a second issue of an Arabic language journal on conflict resolution in cooperation with the Regional Center for Strategic Studies (RCSS) in Cairo, entitled The Difficult Challenge: Dilemmas of Resolving Internal Conflicts in the Middle East. The journal is based on a joint workshop the Oxford Research Group held on the 17th and 18th of April 2016 in Cairo entitled "Resolving Conflicts in the Middle East: An Integrative Perspective". [Read more >>](#)



Chilcot: All Peaceful Options Were Not Exhausted

The Chilcot Report could not have been clearer that "peaceful options were not exhausted" before the UK went to war in Iraq. This article by Scilla Elworthy and Gabrielle Rifkind highlights Oxford Research Group's quiet regional diplomacy in 2002-03 to avert the war. [Read more >>](#)



Chilcot Tells Us What We Already Knew – How Do We Implement It?

This article by Gabrielle Rifkind discusses the findings of the long-awaited Iraq Inquiry and makes the case for learning the lessons not of one isolated military misadventure but of a culture of strategic adventurism in which peace-making is very much an after-thought. [Read more >>](#)



New Sustainable Security Articles

The Sustainable Security [blog](#) has published a wide range of articles in the past month including:

- [The European Union and conflict resolution](#)
- [Frontline diplomats](#)
- [Climate change and conflict in the Sahel](#)
- [Why Western women join Islamic State](#)
- [Maritime security and private guards](#)
- [Security governance in Africa](#)
- [Sino-Russian border security](#)

Remote Control Project News & Publications



Briefing: Britain's culture of no comment

This briefing by Emily Knowles, Remote Control Project Manager, examines how the UK is lagging behind its allies on transparency over its use of Special Operations Forces (SOF). Britain has a culture of no comment regarding the use of its SOF. This culture is harming oversight at a crucial juncture for modern warfare and carries significant risks for the effectiveness, accountability, and perceived legitimacy of the UK's military actions abroad. [Read more >>](#)



Report: Assessing SOF Transparency and Accountability

In this report, commissioned by Remote Control, Dr. Jon Moran, Reader in Security at the University of Leicester, discusses the growth in use of Special Operations Forces by the UK, US, Australia, and Canada throughout the War on Terror. The report examines why SOF have become so prominent in the tool box of modern states, what issues are raised by their use, and what might be done to make the use of SOF more accountable. [Read more >>](#)

ORG Programmes: Sustainable Security | Middle East

Support Us

Your support is vital to ORG's work to build lasting peace and security in the world. ORG is one of the UK's leading advocates for the non-military resolution of global insecurity. By supporting us, you can contribute towards improving the lives of many millions of people affected by violent conflict throughout the world and help ensure that more don't join them.

[Support ORG »](#)

Contact Us

Oxford Research Group
Development House
56-64 Leonard Street
London EC2A 4LT

T +44 (0)20 7549 0298
F +44 (0)20 7681 1668

[Email ORG](#)



[Join us on Facebook](#)



[Follow us on Twitter](#)