



ORG Newsletter April 2016

Paul Rogers' Monthly Briefing



Islamic State: In Retreat or Transition?

Twenty months after the beginning of the US-led coalition air war against the Islamic State (IS), the movement is definitively in retreat in Iraq and Syria. Yet IS is proving adaptive in holding core territory, in co-opting armed Islamist groups beyond the Levant, and in attacking Western and Russian interests beyond the battlefield. As per its "remaining and expanding" goals, the expansion of IS's propaganda war to mobilise supporters globally is ever more crucial as its ability to remain is threatened.

ORG News & Publications



Peacekeeping Challenges and the Responsibility to Protect

In the run-up to the UK-hosted summit on peacekeeping in September 2016, the Sustainable Security Programme is commissioning a series of articles and reports on Peacekeeping Challenges and the Responsibility to Protect (R2P). A new [micro-project](#) on the Sustainable Security blogsite groups new articles on this theme and in May ORG will publish a major new report on the case for greater UK engagement with UN peace operations.



New Sustainable Security Articles

The Sustainable Security [blog](#) has greatly increased its output in the past month, with articles focusing on a variety of topics, including:

- [The SDG 16 and the environment](#)
- [The Prevent Strategy after the Brussels attacks](#)
- [The Kurds as Western proxies against ISIS](#)
- [Sacred values and conflict](#)
- [Terrorists and the Dark Web](#)
- [The Saudi-led intervention in Yemen](#)
- [Boko Haram in Cameroon](#)



Recruitment of New Board Members

Oxford Research Group expects to appoint an additional two or three Trustees at its next Annual General Meeting in September 2016. Expressions of interest are sought from prospective Trustees by **06 May**. [Read more.](#)

Remote Control Project News & Publications



Remote Control Project: Remote-Control Warfare Briefing #14

The fourteenth in our monthly remote-control briefing series from Open Briefing has been published today. The briefings cover developments in five key areas of remote warfare: special forces, private military and security companies, unmanned vehicles and autonomous weapon systems, cyber warfare and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance.



Remote Control Project Briefing - 'Drone Chic'

Commissioned by the Remote Control project, this briefing from Caroline Kennedy-Pipe (University of Hull), James I. Rogers (University of York) & Tom Waldman (University of York) examines the current biases in the depictions of drones as precise, clean and value free. Drawing upon the discussions and debates at the 'Who Bears the Cost?' workshop sponsored by Remote Control in St Andrews in September, 2015, the authors raise a series of concerns which challenge the conventional views of drones and make several recommendations.



Job Opportunity: Research Officer – Remote Control Project

The Remote Control project is expanding and plans to recruit a new Research Officer in May. A job description and full application details will be placed on the ORG [website](#) in mid-May.

ORG Programmes: Sustainable Security | Middle East

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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.

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