



ORG Newsletter April 2017

Paul Rogers' Monthly Briefing



Trump, North Korea and the Risk of War

April has seen the inexperienced Trump Administration further escalate US military activities from Iraq and Syria to Afghanistan and Yemen. Attacking Syrian regime targets for the first time sent a clear signal of muscular change from the Obama era and suggested to President Trump a means to reverse his negative domestic approval ratings. However, it is the crisis over North Korea's nuclear missile programme that has the greatest potential to escalate suddenly and disastrously into a conflict of global significance. [Read more >>](#)

ORG News & Publications



Hans Blix: Trump's Missile Attack Motivated By Domestic Politics

ORG's patron Dr Hans Blix writes that it is possible that the Trump Administration's signal of readiness to tolerate Assad encouraged the Syrian government to barge ahead for more military gain and to use gas against its own citizens. It also seems likely that a significant motive of Trump's cruise missile attack against an airbase in Syria lay in US domestic politics. But the proper action after the gas attack would have been for the Security Council to order investigation under the UN Charter. [Read more >>](#)



Is Trident Influencing UK Energy Policy?

This two-part article by Phil Johnstone and Andy Stirling discusses the influence the UK's nuclear weapons programme may have on its energy policy. British commitment to a 'renaissance' of nuclear energy production is difficult to justify based on economics, energy security or conventional approaches to understanding innovation and technological transitions. Could pressures to maintain an independent nuclear propulsion capacity for the next generation missile submarines have influenced the intensity of UK commitments to new civil nuclear power? The implications of this extend beyond military and energy policy alone, and raise wider questions about British democracy.

[Read part 1 >>](#)

[Read part 2 >>](#)



New Sustainable Security Articles

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

- [Denmark's contribution to UN peacekeeping](#)
- [China's arms sales in Africa](#)
- [Foreign fighters from the Muslim world in Syria](#)
- [Pegida in Austrian politics](#)
- [The Cyprus conflict: a 4-step proposal](#)
- [UK deer poaching and food insecurity](#)



Internship, Sustainable Security Programme

ORG's Sustainable Security Programme expects to recruit an intern for the period from June to September, with the possibility of continued part-time engagement up to December 2017. The intern will work on our new Sustainable Security Index project, focusing on data collection and presentation and will therefore require a good knowledge of statistical analysis. All ORG internships are paid at London Living Wage. Full details will be released in May on ORG's [Jobs page](#); please do not apply before then.

Remote Control Project News & Publications



Article: Why the UK Will Lose the Information War Against Terrorism

Abigail Watson argues that if the government continues to refuse comment on most of its counterterrorism activity abroad it will struggle to win what is increasingly a war of narratives and the strategic use of (dis)information. [Read more >>](#)



Job Opportunity: Senior Advocacy Officer – Remote Control Project

The job-holder will play a leading role in presenting the findings of our research to parliamentarians, government, military officials and other key figures and in acting as a spokesperson for the Remote Control Project's policy recommendations. They will also help to forge policy consensus with key stakeholders, and will play a key role in analysing current and potential policy positions. [Read more and apply >>](#)

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.

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