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Oxford Research Group
Breaking the cycle of violence

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Newsletter February 2020

Featured Publication



European Military Presence in the Sahel: Searching for Purpose

In a co-authored piece for VoxEurop, Abigail Watson, the Research Manager of the Oxford Research Group's Remote Warfare Programme, discusses the main security and development challenges in the Sahel region.

[Read more >>](#)

Paul Rogers' Monthly Briefing



Connecting the Dots: The West's Wars at Home and Abroad

This briefing looks at how the post-9/11 Western-led conflicts have contributed to a sense of animosity in the Middle East and elsewhere towards certain Western states and the broader consequences of this development.

[Read more >>](#)

News and Publications



ORG Co-Hosts Peacebuilding Forum in Addis Adaba

From February 1-3, ORG co-hosted the second Shabwa and Al-Mahra Strategic Forum with the Sana'a Center for Strategic Studies in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The forum's goal was to start a conversation around the main development issues facing local communities in Yemen.

[Read more >>](#)

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Marwa Baabbad Joins UN-Convened Meeting in Jordan

From February 26-28, Marwa Baabbad, ORG's Head of International Projects, joined a two-day consultative meeting with Yemeni public and political figures in Amman, Jordan. The event was convened by the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen.

[Read more >>](#)



Marwa Baabbad Talks at the University of Oxford

From 8-9 February, Marwa Baabbad spoke at OxFID at the University of Oxford's Blavatnik School of Government. The event is the largest student-led development conference in Europe. Marwa joined a distinguished panel to discuss inclusive approaches to peacebuilding.

[Read more >>](#)



Marwa Baabbad Participates in Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance Dialogue

From 24-25 February, Marwa Baabbad joined a two-day dialogue session focusing on peacebuilding through security sector reform and governance in Yemen. The event was hosted by the Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance in Switzerland.

[Read more >>](#)



WarPod Episode 10 | Looking Ahead to the UK's National Security Review

Liam Walpole, ORG's Policy Manager, and Megan Karlshoej-Pedersen, the Research and Policy Officer, are joined on the podcast by Josh Arnold-Forster, who was a special adviser to the Defence Secretary John Reid from 2005-06 and is an associate director at Hanover Communications. The three discuss the upcoming Strategic Defence and Security Review.

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Westminster Round-Up | February 2020

Liam Walpole and Megan Karlshoej-Pedersen discuss the latest defence and security policy developments in UK politics. This month the two talk about the UK's Integrated Security, Defence and Foreign Policy Review and the recent Cabinet reshuffles.

[Listen to the podcast >>](#)



Abigail Watson Speaks at PS21 Event

On 11 February, Abigail Watson spoke at a Project for the Study of the 21st Century event at King's College London. Abigail joined an expert panel to discuss what UK defence does well and what it does badly.

[Read more >>](#)



Abigail Watson Presents at War Talks

On 11 February, Abigail Watson spoke at 'War Talks' at the Prince Consort's Library, Aldershot. Abigail discussed the team's latest report "Fusion Doctrine in Five Steps: Lessons Learned from Remote Warfare in Africa". She argued that the UK currently risks exacerbating rather than alleviating the drivers of conflict in many of the areas of Africa where it is currently engaged.

[Read more >>](#)



Megan Karlshøj-Pedersen Gives Talk At IWM North Event

On 1 February, Megan Karlshøj-Pedersen spoke at the Modern Conflict Research Symposium at the Imperial War Museum North.

[Read more >>](#)



Call for papers: African Studies Association of the UK – Remote Warfare in Africa

In September, ORG will be hosting a panel at the 28th African Studies Association UK biennial conference. Proposals should be submitted electronically by **22 March, 2020**.

[Read more >>](#)



Upcoming Event - Secrets and Spies: UK Intelligence Accountability

On 5 March, Abigail Watson will join an expert panel at Chatham House to discuss UK intelligence accountability in the context of 21st century politics.

[Read more >>](#)



Paul Rogers in the London Review of Books

This month, Paul Rogers had an article published in the London Review of Books. The article discusses Britain's recent naval ambitions and argues that the major security challenges of the future such as climate breakdown and growing inequality are likely to render expensive vessels like aircraft carriers mostly irrelevant.

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