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Newsletter May 2019

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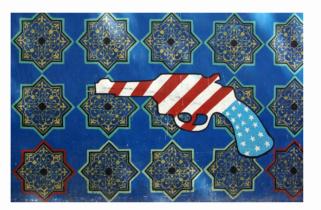


Conceptualising Remote Warfare: The Past, Present, and Future

On 28 February and 1 March 2019, the Remote Warfare Programme and the authors of this essay, held a two-day conference on remote warfare. This essay by Tom Watts (Royal Holloway, University of London) and Rubrick Biegon (University of Kent) provides an overview of the event and reflects more broadly on remote warfare scholarship.

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Paul Rogers' Monthly Briefing



Confronting Iran: To What End?

The escalation of tensions between Iran and the United States during May has increased the potential for a new war in the Middle East. This briefing seeks to clarify what interests Washington and its key regional allies, Israel and Saudi Arabia, see as worth risking such action. And what might be the alternatives?

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News and Publications



The WarPod Ep #2: Yemen, Drones and International Law

To discuss a recent German court case regarding drones, the Remote Warfare Programme (RWP) team are joined by Fiona Nelson of the European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights and Jennifer Gibson of Reprieve.

Listen to the podcast >>



Westminster Round-Up Podcast | May 2019

RWP's Liam Walpole and Megan Karlshoej-Pedersen discuss the latest developments in UK defence and security policy. This month, the two discuss Gavin Williamson's recent sacking, the UK's Protection of Civilians strategy, and the MoDs new guidance on intelligence sharing with partners who may have obtained intelligence through torture.

Listen to the podcast >>



ORG Explains #6: UK-US Defence and Security Relations

Ahead of President Trump's state visit to Britain next week, this updated primer by Richard Reeve explains the legal and institutional basis of current defence and security relations between the United Kingdom and the United States, including cooperation on nuclear weapons, intelligence-sharing, conventional forces and weapons development and procurement.



RWP Submits Parliamentary Evidence to Liaison Committee

This submission by RWP is based on previous research carried out on special forces oversight and draws on a comparative analysis of the U.S. system of legislative oversight of defence and security policy. The submission makes several recommendations to improve the effectiveness of parliamentary select committees overseeing Britain's defence policy.

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The spotlight is on UK Special Forces, whether the Government likes it or not

First published on Agora, this article by RWP's Megan Karlshoej-Pedersen discusses recent media reports of British Special Boat Service soldiers wounded in a gun battle in Yemen and reflects on the serious questions this event raises around the UK's policy of blanket opacity over its use of special forces.

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Trump administration's move away from transparency may undermine US military operations

In early March, President Donald Trump caused a furore when he revoked a requirement for the US intelligence community to report on civilian casualties in airstrikes outside war zones. In this article, originally published in The Strategist, RWP's Megan Karlshoej-Pedersen reflects on how the decision is part of a larger trend of the Trump administration undermining oversight mechanisms for the use of force abroad.

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<u>Richard Reeve speaks at Finnish Institute for</u> <u>International Affairs</u>

Oxford Research Group's Chief Executive Richard Reeve joined the Finnish Institute for International Affairs in Helsinki on 14 May to discuss UK approaches to climate security policy-making.

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Emily Knowles speaks at PAX and Chatham House Event

On 15 May, Emily Knowles, Director of RWP, joined an expert panel at an event at the Solvay Library in Brussels entitled, "EU Perspectives on Remote Warfare". Cohosted by PAX and Chatham House, the event brought together policymakers and civil society organisations to discuss the key issues surrounding remote warfare.

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The International Criminal Court and Africa: An Interview with Phil Clark

Phil Clark discusses the International Criminal Court's approach to Africa and how it has affected politics in the region.

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ORG Blog

This month on the blog:

- Give Peacekeeping a Chance
- <u>A New Proposal For UN Security Council</u> <u>Reform</u>
- <u>Marginalised Narratives of the Rwandan</u> <u>Genocide: An Interview with Giorgia Doná</u>
- <u>China's UN Peacekeeping in Mali: Strategies</u> and Risks

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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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