



ORG Newsletter December 2015

Paul Rogers' Monthly Briefing



Looking Beyond Stalemate in the Middle East

There have been significant recent developments in the war against the Islamic State relating to the status of the Syria-based militias opposing the regime of President Bashar al-Assad, the expanding role of Russia in the conflict, and the growth of the IS power base in Libya. Together they point to a long drawn-out war unless the wider diplomatic process can be revitalised. [Read more.](#)

ORG News & Publications



We Need to Defeat Islamic State - but How?

A genuine, if brief, debate took place amongst the political classes in the UK on the dangers of intervening or not intervening in Syria in advance of the British Parliament's vote to expand its military action from Iraq to Syria. But it seems that we live in a world of amnesiac thinking driven by fine words and high ambition rather than clear strategy. Gabrielle Rifkind argues for the UK to take a lead in multi-track diplomacy to resolve the complex Syrian conflict. [Read more.](#)



Islamic State's Plan, and the West's Trap

In making his case for extending British military operations to Syria in the House of Commons on 26 November, Prime Minister David Cameron three times stated his determination to "learn the lessons" of the last Iraq war. In the face of the urge to respond decisively to the Paris attacks, there is little evidence that sensible conclusions have been reached or that the psychology and strategy of the Islamic State have been understood. This briefing is an initial assessment of the issues raised by the vote that is likely to be held in the Commons on British involvement in Syria. [Read more.](#)



Event Report: Trident|Arguments for, against and alternatives

Oxford Research Group jointly hosted an expert debate entitled Trident: Arguments for, against and alternatives with the How To: Academy, at the Tabernacle in West London on 26 November. This fascinating and well-attended event brought together a diverse range of opinions on the proposed renewal of the UK's Trident nuclear weapons system both from experts and an interested public. [Read more.](#)



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ORG would like to thank all its readers and supporters this Christmas and New Year.

Your support and contributions are vital in maintaining ORG's ability to analyse the root causes of conflicts, to facilitate sustained dialogue, and to promote new, sustainable approaches to global security. With violence escalating and more and more countries joining in the armed conflicts in the Middle East and North Africa, our work has never been more relevant and donations from individuals have become ever more important to us. Please consider making a donation to ORG or becoming a regular supporter of our work in 2016.

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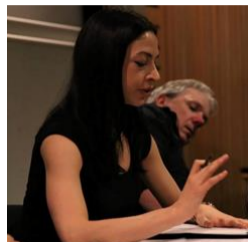
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Remote Control Project News & Publications



RCP Report: Lack of Regulation of “Remote Control” Tear Gas Systems

This Remote Control Project report highlights the States and companies that have developed and promoted unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) – drones, unmanned ground vehicles (UGVs) and other remotely operated systems for delivering tear gas or other so-called “less-lethal” weapons. The report coincides with the annual Conference of States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) in the Hague. [Read more.](#)



Remote Warfare Panel Events in November

November was a busy month for experts from Oxford Research Group and the Remote Control Project as we held a series of outreach events to engage students and medical practitioners in debates on the nature and consequences of remote warfare. [Read more.](#)

ORG Programmes: Sustainable Security | Middle East

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