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Alliance for
Peacebuilding

IEP

Conflict

Extrajudicial detentions and killings have rocketed during the five-year-long Yemeni conflict. Between May 2016 and April 2020, [Mwatana](#), a leading Yemeni human rights group, documented 1,605 cases of arbitrary detention, 770 cases of enforced disappearance and 344 cases of torture.

US linked Boogaloo network banned from Facebook. It said the network was loosely linked to the broader [far-right Boogaloo Bois movement](#), but was distinct because it actively sought to commit violence.

Stock exchange building attacked in Pakistan. A group of four men attacked the stock exchange market in the southern city of Karachi, killing police forces. The Pakistani prime minister said this was a [programmed attack on behalf of India](#).

Development

As COVID-19 cases in Syria are multiplying, its economy is located in free fall. The UN's emergency relief coordinator is pressing the Security Council to extend its authorisation for cross-border aid deliveries from Turkey, which is set to expire on 10 July - is a [lifeline for millions of civilians](#) in Syria's northwest.

Alarm bells ring over aid spending amid lack of clarity on DfID merger. The UK government's plans to merge the Department for International Development (DfID) with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office have been [criticised for a chaotic lack of clarity](#), as NGOs are told to cut aid programmes.

Argentina attempts to restructure its debt. Argentina is racing to [revamp \\$65 billion in foreign bonds](#) after tumbling into its ninth sovereign default in May. A deal is key to avoiding being out of international credit markets.

Economics

Saudi Arabia's oil cut. As the coronavirus ravages the global economy and [saps energy demand](#), the Saudis are leading a push among major oil producers to cut supplies.

World Bank upgrades country classifications by income level for 2020-2021. The bank [promoted the rank of three African countries](#) (Tanzania, Mauritius and Benin) while demoting two (Sudan and Algeria). This will have a significant impact on both international confidence and socio-economic performance.

ISIL supplying Italian Mafia with drugs. Italian authorities confiscated [1BN worth of amphetamine](#) in the port of Salerno, in Naples. The cargo of drugs was sent by ISIL, branding them new drug lords in accord with the Italian mafia.

Coronavirus slump threatens Mexican President's crusade on poverty. Unless the President can work out how to stimulate the economy, [his popularity will fall further](#). He was elected with the largest mandate ever with a pledge to transform the country from the bottom up, putting the poor first but is now facing criticism even from supporters.

Social

China accused of birth control genocide. China has been accused of waging a “demographic campaign of genocide” against its Uighur minority, after a German researcher claimed the government had used [mass sterilisation to suppress birth rates](#) by as much as 80% in some districts.

French referendum to introduce a new crime: “ecocide”. Emmanuel Macron has pledged to [invest €15bn](#) for measures to combat the climate crisis over the next two years. France will be a milestone in combating the climate crises, as it will be inevitably a worldly concern in future years.

This week, India banned 59 Chinese apps, including the popular video sharing platform TikTok, in an attempt to [“safeguard” its mobile and internet users](#).

Politics

Australia seeks long-range missiles in Indo-Pacific defence shift. Australia says it will significantly increase military spending and focus on the Indo-Pacific region amid rising tensions between the US and China. PM Scott Morrison [pledged A\\$270bn](#) (£150bn; \$186bn) to Australia's arms budget over 10 years - a 40% boost.

Russians grant Putin right to extend his rule until 2036 in landslide vote. Russians have paved the way for Vladimir Putin to stay in power until 2036, by [voting overwhelmingly](#) for a package of constitutional changes, which will also boost pensions, partial results of a nationwide vote showed.

US buys nearly all of Gilead's COVID-19 drug Remdesivir. The US move to buy up so much stock from Gilead itself [undermines international co-operation](#) on COVID, given that other countries have taken part in trials of Remdesivir, originally an anti-viral against Ebola.

Israel signals delay in West Bank annexation moves. Israeli annexation of the [occupied West Bank is delayed](#), a government minister said. The date has slipped in the absence of a green light from Washington.

Peacebuilding

Beyond Conflict (BC) has published a [new report](#) showing that Americans are less polarized than they believe they are. Using a customized Polarization Scale--based on psychological research--in three national surveys in 2019, BC found that Americans incorrectly believe that members of the other party “dehumanize, dislike, and disagree” with them across a range of issues “about twice as much as they actually do.” BC recommends four actions to address the psychological factors driving polarization: engage opinion leaders in stopping polarizing narratives, spread broader awareness about the facts of polarization, facilitate dialogues across divides, and measure polarization over time.

Demonstrations for social justice in the US are prompting broader attention to **the history of injustice**. Some have raised [the issue of reparations](#) and highlighted past efforts to come to terms with the past. In one instance of state authorities attempting amends, [the Florida legislature in 1994](#) passed a law allowing descendants of Rosewood residents to attend college in the state tuition-free; a white mob had burned down the black community in Rosewood in 1923. [Universities Studying Slavery](#), which is housed at the University of Virginia, has increased its membership to 40; the organization’s members collaborate on research, consider “multi-institution systemic repair initiatives,” and learn from each other.

Conductive Space for Peace has published [a new report](#) on the implications of COVID-19 for funding for local peacebuilding. Local organizations are on the front lines of dealing with the pandemic and have suffered the greatest impact. Most have experienced a reduction in their funding, but some see an opportunity to “shift power to local peacebuilders” and change their way of working.

Young peacebuilders are playing an active role in combating COVID-19 and developing digital skills that will be useful in the longer term. [A coalition of youth groups in South Sudan](#) created an online and mobile-based campaign to confirm or discount rumors about COVID-19. Where these technical options are unavailable, they are using bicycles outfitted with megaphones to spread valid information about the virus. [Creative Associates](#) is supporting programs in Central America to enhance the development of digital skills among youth.