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# ACICE Monthly Digest

A monthly roundup of significant news around the world



ADMM Cybersecurity and  
Information Centre of Excellence

# Information and Cybersecurity

## New Twitter Policies Aim to Tackle Misinformation

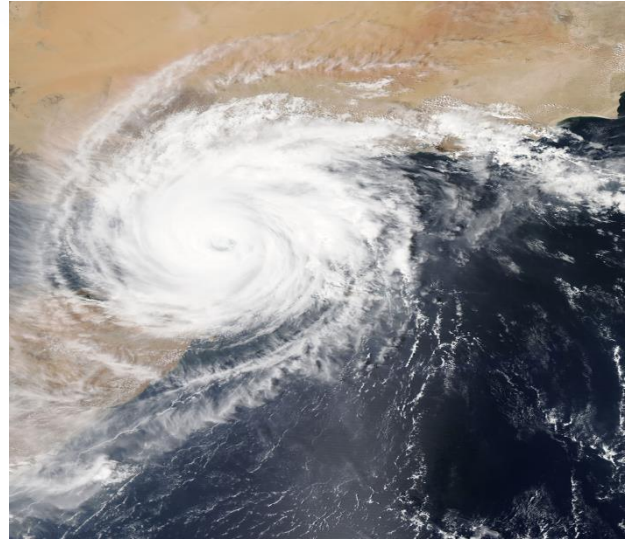
- According to *Aljazeera News*, Twitter has decided to launch a new policy in its fight against misinformation and the spread of false allegations on the social media platform during times of crisis.
- Under the new policy, Twitter will debunk false claims about critical events on tweets by attaching warning labels on them, and users will not be able to retweet, or reply to these tweets. These false claims about critical events could include allegations involving weapons or violence, or the spread of broader misinformation regarding atrocities.
- For a start, Twitter will focus on: (a) tweets concerning situations of armed conflict, health emergencies, and large-scale natural disasters; (b) misleading tweets from high-profile accounts such as official government profiles; and (c) content that could cause harm to “people on the ground”.



# Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief

## The Utility of 5G Technologies for Disaster Relief

- As *CNN* and *CNET News* reported, the arrival of the 2022 hurricane season – together with other natural disasters made more frequent by climate change – makes it vital for responders of disaster relief to prepare for the tasks ahead.
- When a disaster strikes, power supply and communication are frequently disrupted. Many people do not get timely information or are ill-informed of the situation. As a result, people often panic.
- To overcome disruptions to network services, countries like the US and Australia have been enhancing their disaster relief equipment with network capabilities. For instance, by enhancing drones and jeeps with 5G connectivity, such equipment can restore connectivity to remote disaster zones, allowing people to send messages or download evacuation plans when conventional mobile networks collapse.
- First responders also benefit from the higher data transfer speeds provided by 5G connectivity, as it enables cloud-based tools that provide crucial information such as the geographical distribution of an affected community. According to *Information Week*, this capability helps to facilitate search-and-rescue operations to where help is needed most.



# Terrorism

## Updates on Terrorism in South and Southeast Asia

- On 27 May 2022, *CNN Philippines* reported that two Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) exploded in two cities – Koronadal City and Tacurong City – in Mindanao, Philippines.
- These explosions were likely to be perpetrated by the pro-ISIS militant group named Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF).
- Beyond the Philippines, an Al-Qaeda affiliate Al-Qaeda in Indian Subcontinent (AQIS) had publicly threatened to conduct suicide attacks in India. These threats were issued on 6 Jun 2022 in response to controversial remarks about Prophet Muhammad by an Indian government official<sup>1</sup>.
- Established in Sep 2014 by Al-Qaeda Leader Al-Zawahiri, AQIS is reportedly operating in India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Myanmar, and Bangladesh. Even though AQIS has yet to carry out any attacks in India, its threats should be taken seriously. According to a UN report, the AQIS is changing focus from Afghanistan to Kashmir with the help of the Taliban government, and has about 400 fighters spread across Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, and Pakistan.

<sup>1</sup> On 5 Jun 2022, one of the Indian government officials unintentionally insulted the prophet and his wife Aisha in a nationwide TV debate.

# Maritime Security

## The Increasing Role for Digital Solutions Against Piracy

- According to the *ICC International Maritime Bureau*, the incidence of piracy at sea reached a 27-year low in 2021. However, the threat from piracy remains significant and persistent in certain maritime regions.
- According to *Technative*, most vessels carry a wide array of systems for identification, navigation, cargo handling and weather monitoring. However, these vessels would benefit from timely alerts on maritime illicit activities drawing from a broader range of intelligence sources to provide greater insight on suspected piracy activities.
- Through the combination of existing tracking systems such as Automatic Identification Systems (AIS)<sup>1</sup>, Long-Range Tracking and Identification Technology (LRIT)<sup>2</sup>, and satellites, maritime domain awareness platforms provide persistent, real-time tracking of vessels along with real-time reports of piracy events.
- Besides the real-time tracking of vessels, maritime domain awareness platforms also provide real-time forecasts and risk assessments based on sea state and weather. Some tools go further to correlate wave height and weather against historical patterns of illegal behaviours in specific areas. By combining tracking systems and real-time risk assessment tools, these domain awareness platforms provide better insights to warn operators of any suspected piracy activities along the sea route and allow them to reroute as necessary.

<sup>1</sup> AIS is an automated tracking system that displays information of vessels in the vicinity, and can be used to identify, locate and monitor vessels.

<sup>2</sup> LRIT collects and disseminates vessel position information to allow global identification and tracking of ships by the country they are registered with.

- Governments can also employ maritime domain awareness platforms to enhance maritime security in their waters. One such example is Singapore's Information Fusion Centre (IFC) Real-time Information-sharing System (IRIS), which fuses data from AIS, LRIT, partner navy and coast guards' operations centres, as well as other sources. By obtaining a faster and more accurate maritime picture of near-real-time activities in their waters, navies and maritime patrols will be able to respond to piracy threats more swiftly.

# Annex

## Sources

### Information and Cybersecurity

- New Twitter Policies Aim to Tackle Misinformation
  - <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/5/20/twitter-rolls-out-misinformation>

### Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief

- The Utility of 5G Technologies for Disaster Relief
  - [https://edition.cnn.com/2022/04/11/weather/2022-atlantic-hurricane-season-fast-facts/index.html#:~:text=The%202022%20Atlantic%20hurricane%20season%20runs%20from%20June%201%20to,64%20knots\)%20or%20higher.%22](https://edition.cnn.com/2022/04/11/weather/2022-atlantic-hurricane-season-fast-facts/index.html#:~:text=The%202022%20Atlantic%20hurricane%20season%20runs%20from%20June%201%20to,64%20knots)%20or%20higher.%22)
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## Terrorism

- Updates on Terrorism in South and Southeast Asia
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  - <https://warontherocks.com/2022/05/the-quad-goes-to-sea/>
  - [https://www.mindef.gov.sg/web/portal/mindef/news-and-events/latest-releases/article-detail/2019/May/14may19\\_fs](https://www.mindef.gov.sg/web/portal/mindef/news-and-events/latest-releases/article-detail/2019/May/14may19_fs)

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