

## Fortnightly links: pirates, polls, Brazil, #allmalepanels, Kunduz bombing, and more

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Plummeting oil prices have had worrying impacts on development and livelihoods in many countries around the world. They have also sparked a [change in piracy tactics](#), according to PRI's *The World*.

A [new report](#) from the Center for International Media Assistance argues that media - and access to information more broadly - should itself be considered a form of aid. And like all aid, it can be given well or poorly.

If you are anxiously following the polls in the lead-up to the Australian election on July 2, *The Guardian* has a [smart poll aggregator](#).

A team of researchers led from the University of Queensland has systematically examined the combined effect of sea-level rise and wave action on low-lying islands in the Solomon Islands, detailing a number of islands that have been abandoned as a consequence. One key finding of their research has been that wave action plays a crucial role in transforming the effects of sea level rise into erosion of the sort that leads to islands being abandoned. The paper is [here](#), and a blog post on the conversation is [here](#).

ABC's *Rear Vision* has a [good episode](#) on Brazil's ongoing political crisis, and *The Guardian* has [an excellent primer](#) on the woman at the centre of it, president Dilma Rousseff. (Although note that both the ABC show and Guardian article were produced prior to some of the more recent twists in the saga. [This Guardian](#) article is more or less up to date.

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NPR's *Goats and Soda* blog [takes a look](#) at the phenomenon that is #allmalepanels in global development sphere.

The merit of various development projects and funding mechanisms was a prominent theme in our inboxes this fortnight. A new [World Bank paper](#) finds evidence suggesting child sponsorship offers benefits that continue into adulthood, at least in some contexts. On the *Financial Times*, Caroline Fiennes makes the case for unrestricted giving using the example of '[toilet roll philanthropy](#)'. And Lee Crawford highlights what is arguably the [world's worst development project](#) on his *Roving Bandit* blog.

And lastly, a distressing long-read from the *New York Times Magazine* in the lead-up to next week's World Humanitarian Summit. Did Afghan forces [deliberately lead](#) the US into bombing the Médecins Sans Frontières hospital in Kunduz?