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COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

**Will Australia’s New Corruption Watchdog Work If Hearings Are Held in Private?**
*John Buckley – VICE: 29 September 2022*

Legal experts and MPs told VICE that private hearings could “inhibit” the commission’s ability to expose corruption.


**Uruguay Passport Scandals Force Reckoning About Government Corruption**
*Sean Doherty – InSight Crime: 30 September 2022*

The arrest of the Uruguayan president’s head of security in an alleged passport scam marks the country’s second such scandal and raises questions about whether official corruption has too long gone unnoticed.


For more on this theme:

**Will the National Anti-Corruption Commission actually stamp out corruption in government?**

**Corruption on the rise in Nepal**

**Cutting out corruption**
https://www.hellenicshippingnews.com/cutting-out-corruption/

**Argentina vice president slams corruption case as ‘staged fable’**

**Architects Blame Corruption and Lack of Regulation for Building Collapse**

**Intensification of Xi’s anti-corruption campaign**

**Belarus corruption watch: The Belarusian government elites’ EU vacations**

**Corruption Puts Military Ammunition into the Hands of Paraguay’s Criminals**

**One year on, Pandora Papers continues to be anti-corruption ‘tour de force’**
https://www.icij.org/investigations/pandora-papers/one-year-on-pandora-papers-continues-to-be-anti-corruption-tour-de-force/
DRUG TRAFFICKING

**Venezuela and the ELN’s Love-Hate Relationship with Drug Trafficking**
*InSight Crime: 3 October 2022*

The border where northeast Colombia’s Catatumbo region meets the northwestern Venezuelan state of Zulia is one of the world’s most seamless cocaine corridors.


**How Peru’s Coca Production is Helping the Global Cocaine Boom**
*Scott Mistler-Ferguson – InSight Crime: 27 September 2022*

An increase in coca cultivation and cocaine production in Peru is fueling the current global cocaine boom, according to a new report.


*For more on this theme:*

**Pakistan Army, Taliban Involved In Narco Trade: NATO Report**

**Hezbollah Has Turned Lebanon Into A Narco-State – OpEd**
https://www.eurasiareview.com/23092022-hezbollah-has-turned-lebanon-into-a-narco-state-oped/

**Colombia, US Discuss More Drug Interception at Sea, Enhanced Intel Sharing**

**Joint Canada-U.S. Investigation Seizes Over $40 Million in Drugs, Arrests 15**

**Jordan’s navy thwarts drug smuggling attempt from Red Sea**

**Captagon crisis: US Congress moves to crack down on Syria-linked drug trade**

**From inside the US’s most secure prison, El Chapo is pointing fingers at what he says are the real powers in the drug trade**

**The Captagon War: Smuggling on the Jordanian-Syrian border**

**Delegates Call for Global Instrument to Curb Cybercrime, as Third Committee Discusses Crime, Communications Technologies and Drugs**
TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

Disrupting the Financial Flows of Illegal Wildlife Traders
Andrew Pimlott – Ankura: 4 October 2022

Global action to combat the trade in endangered animals and their body parts is mounting. Andrew Pimlott outlines what is being done, with a focus on the measures being taken to prevent the illicit proceeds of these crimes being laundered through the financial system.


Peace and Security in Africa: Financing of Armed Groups and Terrorists Through Illicit Trafficking of Natural Resources
Security Council Report: 2 October 2022

Gabon is organizing a high-level debate on strengthening the fight against the financing of armed groups and terrorists through the illicit trafficking of natural resources.


For more on this theme:

New Recommendations for International Fisheries Bodies Should Boost Compliance With Rules

Chopping Down the Future: Heating Crisis Worsens Illegal Logging in Balkans

Targeted — Environmentalists in Danger

Rhino poaching must be tackled as crime crisis, not as a conservation crisis

Smugglers carve a niche in Africa’s rare rosewood
https://issafrica.org/iss-today/smugglers-carve-a-niche-in-africas-rare-rosewood

Songbirds with unique colours are more likely to be traded as pets – new research

Romania Cracks Down On Illegal Logging

The Jungle Patrol: Fighting Illegal Loggers on the Guatemala-Mexico Border
PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

INTERNET GOVERNANCE

Lithuania (and Europe) win top job at UN telecoms agency
Clothilde Goujard – Politico: 29 September 2022
Victory of Lithuanian official marks European Union success in ramping up international clout on internet governance.

For more on this theme:

(Global) One of the Biggest Problems in Regulating AI Is Agreeing on a Definition
https://carnegieendowment.org/2022/10/06/one-of-biggest-problems-in-regulating-ai-is-agreeing-on-definition-pub-88100

(U.S., Global) ITU elects US candidate, quelling concerns about internet fracture

(Russia, Ukraine, Global) Russia’s Invasion of Ukraine Is Thwarting Its International Internet Ambitions
https://slate.com/technology/2022/10/itu-election-russia-vs-us.html

INTERNET FREEDOM

When Will Iran’s Internet Censorship Collapse?
Arash Zad – Slate: 29 September 2022
In the wake of the killing of Mahsa Amini by the hijab police (or morality police, as they prefer to be called), people across Iran are demonstrating against the government. They’re also turning to the internet to share information and circulate proof of the regime’s crimes. The government has responded the way it normally does to protests: by trying to limit people’s digital access.

For more on this theme:

(Russia) Russia’s Internet Censor Is Also a Surveillance Machine
https://www.cfr.org/blog/russias-internet-censor-also-surveillance-machine

(Iran) Internet freedom activists scramble to help Iranians evade Tehran’s digital crackdown

(China) Google shuts down Translate service in China
https://www.cnbc.com/2022/10/03/google-shuts-down-translate-service-in-china-.html

(Turkey) Turkish journalist groups slam bill to fight disinformation
https://apnews.com/article/middle-east-business-journalism-6d9acd0e41e4520132eb0702f3a9dfe3
CYBER ATTACKS, THREATS AND VULNERABILITIES

Russian-speaking hackers knock US state government websites offline
Sean Lyngaas – CNN: 5 October 2022

Russian-speaking hackers claimed responsibility for knocking offline state government websites in Colorado, Kentucky and Mississippi, among other states — the latest example of apparent politically motivated hacking following Russia’s invasion of Ukraine.

For more on this theme:
(Russia, Ukraine) Relentless Russian Cyberattacks on Ukraine Raise Important Policy Questions
https://www.darkreading.com/threat-intelligence/russian-cyberattacks-ukraine-raise-important-policy-questions

(Australia) The biggest hack in history: Australians scramble to change passports and driver licenses after Optus telco data debacle

(U.K., Russia) Pro-Russian hackers temporarily take MI5 website offline with cyber attack
https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/russian-cyber-attacks-mi5-anonymous-b2184446.html

CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING

Iranian-backed attacks on Albania highlights need for Cyber Capacity Building
Mark Montgomery – Cipher Brief: 19 September 2022

Albania, a NATO member state, cut diplomatic ties with Iran earlier this month after blaming Tehran for a cyberattack against Albanian government networks. It is an unprecedented response to a cyberattack that highlights the impact of such attacks and how they could rapidly move NATO into a crisis or contingency.
https://www.thecipherbrief.com/column_article/iranian-backed-attacks-on-albania-highlights-need-for-cyber-capacity

For more on this theme:
(EU) Six EU countries call for ambitious cyber defence policy, document

(Pakistan) Govt to Formulate New Cyber Security Framework After Ugly Audio Leaks Fiasco

(Europe) International Cooperation: ENISA Welcomes EU Eastern Partnership Delegation for a Study Visit to its Headquarters
CYBERCRIME

Commonwealth tackling rising cybercrime threat in Asia
Shannon Williams – Security Brief Asia: 3 October 2022

Cybercrime represents an increasing peril in Asia. Intellectual property and security threats, financial losses, psychological stress and disruption to services and assets are burgeoning issues for governments and businesses.


For more on this theme:
(Ghana) Ghana: Deepen International Cooperation to Counter Cybercrime — Veep
https://allafrica.com/stories/202210040279.html

(Libya) Libyan Parliament passes law to “combat cyber crime”

(Global) Ransomware hunters: the self-taught tech geniuses fighting cybercrime

CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION

Critical cybersecurity infrastructure: How can countries protect themselves against cyberattacks?
Janosch Delcker – Deutsche Welle: 30 September 2022

Hacking attacks on power grids, telecom networks or governments can paralyze entire societies. That makes them a powerful military weapon, as the war in Ukraine demonstrates. How can countries protect themselves?


For more on this theme:
(Iran, Australia) Iranian hackers targeting Australian infrastructure

(U.S.) The Vulnerability Of Mid-Market Critical Infrastructure Against Cyberattacks And Why It Matters

(U.S.) Malicious Cyber Activity Against Election Infrastructure Unlikely to Disrupt or Prevent Voting
PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

ISIS AND FOREIGN FIGHTERS

**Women are fuelling ISIS’s comeback**

Haid Haid – Arab Weekly: 5 October 2022

In addition to the high concentration of like-minded people in one place, the absence of male supervision inside the camp has allowed ISIS female supporters to take the lead and mirror ISIS practices.

https://thearabweekly.com/women-are-fuelling-isiss-comeback

**Maldives: the legacy of Islamic State**

John Kachtik – The Interpreter: 7 October 2022

From 2014 to 2018, more people departed the Maldives to join the Islamic State than from any other country. In total, this figure is estimated at 250 men and women from a country of only 500,000. Most who went died. The surviving women and children, around 50, are today detained in the Al Hol and Roj camps in northeast Syria.

https://www.lowyinstitute.org/the-interpreter/maldives-legacy-islamic-state

For more on this theme:

**Islamic State in Khurasan Province Exploits Tajik Martyrs to Recruit in Central Asia**


**IS-linked suspects wanted to establish Caliphate in India: cops**


**Islamic State-linked militants kill Egyptian officer in restive Sinai**

https://english.alaraby.co.uk/news/linked-militants-kill-egyptian-officer-sinai

**ISIS Cell Planning Attack on Muslim School Exposed**

https://www.hstoday.us/subject-matter-areas/counterterrorism/isis-cell-planning-attack-on-muslim-school-exposed/

**EER Webinar: Is There A Way To Resolve Europe’s Problem in Repatriating Jihadist Fighters and Their Families?**


**Germany Brings Back 12 Citizens From Syrian Detention Camp**


**France Called Out for Ignoring Plea to Repatriate Citizens in Syria**

TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

**Terrorists in Taliban-Ruled Afghanistan**
*Jonathan Schroden – The Diplomat: 1 October 2022*

Afghanistan remains a simmering cauldron of jihadist terrorist groups, various actors seeking to counter them, and conflict and cooperation among the groups themselves.


**For more on this theme:**

- **Hezbollah smuggling weapons to the West Bank amid surge in militant activity**

- **US court awards millions to victims of Hezbollah rockets**

- **Palestinians in Gaza divided over Hamas renewing ties with Assad**

- **The Importance of Terrorist Founders and the Role of Safe Havens**

- **The Enduring Ideological Threat Of Al-Qaeda After Ayman Al-Zawahiri – Analysis**

- **Islamist Radicals From Afghanistan Now Fighting for Tajikistan Against Kyrgyzstan**
  https://jamestown.org/program/islamist-radicals-from-afghanistan-now-fighting-for-tajikistan-against-kyrgyzstan/

- **The Barelvi Transnational Terrorist Network Behind the September 2020 Charlie Hebdo Attack: A New and Dynamic Threat Reaches Europe**

- **Is the PFI a gateway to Islamic State and other terror outfits?**

- **Shabaab continues to lose ground in central Somalia**

- **Western nations concerned by presence of extremist groups in Afghanistan**

- **Afghan Taliban sign deal for Russian oil products, gas and wheat**
CONFLICT AND CRIME

A Look at the Laws of War — and How Russia is Violating Them
Lisa Morjé Howard – United States Institute of Peace: 29 September 2022

Upholding international law makes peace possible, which means Russia’s leader must be held to account.


For more on this theme:

Four Ways to Include Conflict-Related Sexual Violence in Atrocity Prevention

10 torture sites in 1 town: Russia sowed pain, fear in Izium

Russia’s Annexed Land Is a Crime Scene

The Legal Ramifications Of Political Rhetoric: Genocide In Russia's Invasion Of Ukraine — Analysis

Inside Russia’s “Filtration Camps” in Eastern Ukraine
https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2022/10/10/inside-russias-filtration-camps-in-eastern-ukraine

Prosecuting Putin — How To Try Russia For War Crimes In Ukraine
https://theowp.org/reports/prosecuting-putin-how-to-try-russia-for-war-crimes-in-ukraine/

Their loved ones are Ukrainian medics — and Russian prisoners of war
https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2022/10/02/russia-ukraine-war-prisoners-medics/

Justice for war crimes in Ukraine must not be delayed

Ukraine Symposium – Russia’s Forcible Transfer of Children
https://lieber.westpoint.edu/russias-forcible-transfer-children/

Development Dialogue on organized crime, instability and democracy
https://globalinitiative.net/analysis/development-dialogue-organized-crime-instability-democracy-2022/

EU wants probe into alleged war crimes by Azerbaijan
https://euobserver.com/world/156203

Ukraine: Why a Special Tribunal is Crucial
https://iwpr.net/global-voices/ukraine-why-special-tribunal-crucial

Ensuring Accountability for Sexual and Gender-Based Violence resulting from Russia’s War against Ukraine
RUSSIA/UKRAINE

Investigative journalism is essential for Ukraine reconstruction and anti-corruption
Miranda Patrucic, Alexandra Gillies, Norman Eisen, and Lilly Blumenthal – Brookings: 6 October 2022

Rebuilding Ukraine is not just an opportunity to help the country recover from a devastating war but also opens a door for innovation in building anti-corruption mechanisms from the ground up.

https://www.brookings.edu/blog/up-front/2022/10/06/investigative-journalism-is-essential-for-ukraine-reconstruction-and-anti-corruption/

For more on this theme:

Moldova’s future is tied to Russia’s war in Ukraine
https://www.gisreportsonline.com/r/moldova-russia-ukraine/

Chinese Social Media Brands Russia ‘Weak Goose’ After Ukraine Failures

Military Lessons from the War in Ukraine

Russia escalating use of Iranian ‘kamikaze’ drones in Ukraine

Putin’s Approval Ratings Suffer First Fall Since Start of Ukraine War

Kremlin attempts to calm Russian fury over chaotic mobilization
https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/oct/01/kremlin-attempts-to-calm-russian-fury-over-chaotic-mobilisation

Ukrainian economy will shrink at rate eight times that of Russia, World Bank forecasts

Russia smuggling Ukrainian grain to help pay for Putin’s war
https://apnews.com/article/russia-ukraine-putin-business-lebanon-syria-87c3b6fea3f4c-326003123b21aa78099

Sabotaging Putin’s Mobilization as a Form of Social Protest

Cyberwar in Ukraine: What You See Is Not What’s Really There
https://www.lawfareblog.com/cyberwar-ukraine-what-you-see-not-whats-really-there

Russian Oligarch and Allies Indicted For Sanctions Evasion

Permanent Rupture: The European-Russian Energy Relationship Has Ended with Nord Stream
RUSSIA/UKRAINE

For more on this theme:

How to respond to Putin’s land grab and nuclear gambit
https://www.brookings.edu/blog/order-from-chaos/2022/10/04/how-to-respond-to-putins-land-grab-and-nuclear-gambit/

Ukraine and the Global Nuclear Order

Russia’s Faltering Promise to Post-Soviet States

Russia’s annexations must not impact global resolve
https://www.chathamhouse.org/2022/10/russias-annexations-must-not-impact-global-resolve

Are the sanctions against Russia working?
https://www.chathamhouse.org/2022/09/are-sanctions-against-russia-working

Putin Sees Pakistan as Russia’s Priority Partner in Southeast Asia

Russia’s Inside-Out Federation
https://jamestown.org/program/russias-inside-out-federation/

Nord Stream Explosions: Russian Sabotage in the Baltic?
https://jamestown.org/program/nord-stream-explosions-russian-sabotage-in-the-baltic/

Are Non-Russians Putin’s Primary Domestic Target for War Effort — or Simply Collateral Damage?
https://jamestown.org/program/are-non-russians-putins-primary-domestic-target-for-war-effort-or-simply-collateral-damage/

Russia Keeps ‘Gathering’ Non-Russian Lands in Ukraine and Beyond

Is Russia Escalating to De-Escalate?
https://www.usip.org/publications/2022/10/russia-escalating-de-escalate

Mary Glantz on Putin’s Escalating Threats Against Ukraine and the West

What Surprised One Drone Maker About Russia’s War on Ukraine

Ukraine Exposes Europe’s Competing Narratives About Russia
https://carnegieeurope.eu/strategiceurope/88084

What Russia’s War in Ukraine Means for Europe
https://carnegieeurope.eu/strategiceurope/86587
RUSSIA/UKRAINE

For more on this theme:

**Judy Asks: Can Putin Be Stopped?**
https://carnegieeurope.eu/strategiceurope/88037

‘Erdogan’s relationship with Putin is part of his game’

**Finland to bar Russians after Putin’s mobilisation order**

**Analysis: Russia’s war in Ukraine reaches a critical moment**
https://apnews.com/article/russia-ukraine-putin-mikhail-gorbachev-treaties-saddam-hussein-a0de3d1d4f9540809fc4b3638023c2ee

**The turning points in Russia’s invasion of Ukraine**

**Russia’s war in Ukraine enters its third phase — analysis**
https://www.jpost.com/international/article-718694

**Why Vladimir Putin is annexing Ukrainian territory**

**Frustration with Ukraine war spills out on Russian state TV**

**Will Putin send mobilized Russians to Belarus for a new Kyiv offensive?**

**European unity is essential as Putin prepares to weaponize winter**

**Putin denounces imperialism while annexing large swathes of Ukraine**

**Russia has again tried to change Europe’s borders by force. What’s next?**
https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/content-series/fastthinking/russia-has-again-changed-europes-borders-by-force-whats-next/

**The Russian Double — Defeat and Decline**
https://cepa.org/article/the-russian-double-defeat-and-decline/

**Lukashenko Plays Russian Roulette**
https://cepa.org/article/lukashenko-plays-russian-roulette/'
RUSSIA/UKRAINE

For more on this theme:

The Energy Winter War
https://cepa.org/article/the-energy-winter-war/

Dealing with Defeat
https://cepa.org/article/dealing-with-defeat/

Ukraine is Winning the Cyber War
https://cepa.org/article/ukraine-is-winning-the-cyber-war/

Russia's war in Ukraine revives calls for Security Council expansion
https://issafrica.org/iss-today/russias-war-in-ukraine-revives-calls-for-security-council-expansion

'It feels inevitable': Ukraine starts to believe it can win back Crimea
https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/oct/02/zelenskiy-right-hand-woman-crimea-russia-ukraine-tamila-tasheva

A New Phase of Escalation in the Russia-Ukraine War
https://moderndiplomacy.eu/2022/10/03/a-new-phase-of-escalation-in-the-russia-ukraine-war/

What's Driving Russia's Opportunistic Inroads With Saudi Arabia and the Gulf Arabs

From Ally to Mediator: How Russia's Invasion Has Changed Ukraine-Turkey Relations
https://carnegieendowment.org/politika/88097

Russian Collateral Damage: Finland and Sweden's Accession to NATO
https://carnegieendowment.org/politika/88096

Russia’s Mass Exodus Is Forcing Its Neighbors to Get Off the Fence
https://carnegieendowment.org/politika/88095

Russia’s Elites Are Starting to Admit the Possibility of Defeat
https://carnegieendowment.org/politika/88072

Putin Just Told Us What He’s Planning

Putin's Roulette
https://www.foreignaffairs.com/russian-federation/putin-roulette-sacrificing-supporters-race-against-defeat

The War in Ukraine and the Emergence of the Post-Western World: A View from Brazil

What the war in Ukraine means for Asia’s climate goals
https://apnews.com/article/russia-ukraine-business-asia-india-global-trade-fe2e7b9ddd1411f-5b748a77c8186bcbd
RUSSIA/UKRAINE

For more on this theme:

**Putin's Nuclear Risk Calculus**
https://www.thecipherbrief.com/column_article/putins-nuclear-risk-calculus

**Global Upheaval As Opportunity: North Korea Rebuilding Ties With Russia And China**

**Russia's bloated military has finally been properly tested — and the results are not good**
https://www.telegraph.co.uk/world-news/2022/10/03/ukraines-lyman-victory-shows-skill-trumps-numbers-when-comes/

**Blood Money — Calculating Russia's Debt to Ukraine**
https://cepa.org/article/blood-money-calculating-russias-debt-to-ukraine/