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CORRUPTION

**Australia to create national anti-corruption watchdog**
*Reuters: 26 September 2022*

The government will introduce legislation to create a National Anti-Corruption Commission after years of debate over the need for an independent watchdog for politicians.


**Political corruption detrimental to Southeast Asia**
*Premesha Saha – Hindustan Times: 27 September 2022*

There is a perception that corruption has increased in Malaysia, especially after the exposure of recent scandals. Although Malaysia is not among the most corrupt countries in the world according to the World Bank, much improvement is needed.


For more on this theme:

**Arab anti-corruption convention’s implementation group session kicks off**
https://www.gulf-times.com/story/724473/Arab-anti-corruption-convention-s-implementation-group-session-kicks-off

**Ex-Honduras first lady sentenced to prison for embezzlement**

**Corruption As A Threat To Philippine National Security – Analysis**

**What is the EU doing about corruption?**
https://www.euractiv.com/section/politics/podcast/what-is-the-eu-doing-about-corruption/

**Fighting corruption without fear or favour**
https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/fighting-corruption-without-fear-or-favour

**From Indonesia to India: Is There Hope for Anti-Corruption Efforts Within the G20?**
http://www.ipsnews.net/2022/09/indonesia-india-hope-anti-corruption-efforts-within-g20/

**Fu Zhenghua: China’s ex-justice minister jailed for corruption**

**Factbox: Hungary’s commitments to the EU on cutting corruption risks**

**Living in a corrupt environment makes you more likely to believe in conspiracy theories, regardless of your politics**
DRUG TRAFFICKING

Lao Authorities Seize Another Huge Shipment of Methamphetamine
Sebastian Strangio – The Diplomat: 26 September 2022

The country’s four largest meth seizures have come over the past 15 months — striking evidence of the scale of the recent Mekong drug-production boom.


France Dealing with Influx of Cocaine from Caribbean Territories
Chris Dalby – InSight Crime: 26 September 2022

Cocaine seizures in the French Caribbean territories of French Guiana, Guadeloupe and Martinique have revealed how these territories provide another popular option for trafficking cocaine into Europe.


For more on this theme:

Drug Trends and Challenges in Europe in Spotlight at Regional Meeting

Fact sheet: Biden-Harris Administration Announces New Actions and Funding to Address the Overdose Epidemic and Support Recovery

Parents Call on Social Media Companies to Crack Down on Online Drug Trafficking

Over a Thousand Arrested Globally in Major Interpol-led Drug Bust

Drug trafficking through maritime routes, postal services on rise: NCB

Cocaine, coups plague Guinea-Bissau
https://www.defenceweb.co.za/governance/governance-governance/cocaine-coups-plague-guinea-bissau/

The Captagon Problem in Saudi Arabia and Other Gulf States

Addressing the drug trade is critical to Jordan’s stability
TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

Lizard in your luggage? We’re using artificial intelligence to detect wildlife trafficking
Vanessa Pirotta and Justine O’Brien – The Conversation: 22 September 2022

Research shows the potential for new technology to detect illegal wildlife in luggage or mail by recognizing the shapes of animals when scanned at airports and mail centers.
https://theconversation.com/lizard-in-your-luggage-were-using-artificial-intelligence-to-detect-wildlife-trafficking-189779

How money and technology are militarising the fight against the illegal wildlife trade
Rosaleen Duffy – The Conversation: 23 September 2022

The illegal wildlife trade, which has an estimated value of at least U.S. $7 billion, is driving some of the most well-known species — rhinos, elephants, tigers, lions and, more recently, pangolins — toward extinction.

For more on this theme:

 Trafficking could mean the last flight for African greys
https://issafrica.org/iss-today/trafficking-could-mean-the-last-flight-for-african-greys

 Trafficked: Kidnapped chimps, jailed rhino horn traffickers, and seized donkey parts

 Champhai district in Mizoram is now a hotspot for wildlife trafficking in India

 Expanding the arsenal
https://globalinitiative.net/analysis/typology-reports-online-illegal-wildlife-trade/

 Cambodia’s illegal logging structures
https://globalinitiative.net/analysis/forest-crimes-cambodia/

 Big data monitoring tool aims to catch up to Indonesia’s booming online bird trade

 Demand for sand in Bangladesh escalates illegal activities, threatens environment

 Global Deal Will Help Reduce Overfishing and Improve Ocean Health
INTERNET GOVERNANCE

The Election of Doreen Bogdan-Martin as Secretary General of the International Telecommunication Union
U.S. Department of State: 29 September 2022

Doreen Bogdan-Martin, the candidate backed by the U.S., was elected to serve as the next secretary general of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). She defeated the Russian candidate to become the first female ITU secretary general.


For more on this theme:

(Global) Reexamining Internet Fragmentation
https://circleid.com/posts/20220926-reexamining-internet-fragmentation

(Global) Web3 beyond the hype

(U.S., Global) Why Biden and Blinken Are Backing a Candidate for a Little-Known U.N. Internet Agency

INTERNET FREEDOM

U.S. adjusts sanctions to help Iranians evade online surveillance, censorship
Daphne Psaledakis – Reuters: 23 September 2022

The U.S. Treasury Department has issued guidance that expands the range of internet services available to Iranians amid protests around Iran following the death of a 22-year-old woman in custody.


For more on this theme:

(Iran) Iranian Vice President Under Scrutiny After Son Emigrates To Canada, Sells VPNs
https://www.rferl.org/a/iran-vice-president-son-vpns/32032030.html

(Vietnam) Vietnam to restrict which social media accounts can post news

(China) Chinese regulator pushes for broadcast delay of all online concerts and shows, tightening censorship of live-streamed content
https://www.scmp.com/tech/big-tech/article/3193960/chinese-regulator-pushes-broadcast-delay-all-online-concerts-and
CYBER ATTACKS, THREATS AND VULNERABILITIES

Australian police seek to protect customers after Optus hack
Al Jazeera: 30 September 2022
Authorities say the perpetrator of one of the country’s biggest cyberattacks hid by using “obfuscation techniques.”

For more on this theme:
(Indonesia) Bjorka, the Online Hacker Trying To Take Down the Indonesian Government
(Bangladesh, India) Hacktivist group from Bangladesh launches cyber attack on Indian government websites
(U.K.) Oxford Health: Cyber attack continues to hit NHS trust’s services
(Russia) Russia’s Wiper Attacks Cause Massive Cyber Damage
https://dialogo-americas.com/articles/russias-wiper-attacks-cause-massive-cyber-damage/

CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING

Africa’s mobile internet speed remains far below the global average. The economic impact is huge
Faustine Ngila – World Economic Forum and Quartz: 27 September 2022
Even the fastest mobile internet speed in Africa is not close to the global average, according to the 2022 Speedtest Global Index.

For more on this theme:
(Finlandx) New post of National Cyber Security Director to be created at the Ministry of Transport and Communications
(U.K.) £50m Defence Cyber Academy ‘will counter global cyber security threats’
(India) India: Crucial cyberwarfare capabilities need to be upgraded
CYBERCRIME

New European Union cybersecurity proposal takes aim at cybercrime
Spencer Feingold – World Economic Forum: 28 September 2022

The European Union is advancing legislation to strengthen security requirements for all digital hardware and software products.


For more on this theme:

(Global) QUAD nations to assist each other in taking action against malicious cyber activities

(Africa) Cybercrime crackdown challenges leave Internet more dangerous
https://www.blueprint.ng/cybercrime-crackdown-challenges-leave-internet-more-dangerous/

(South Africa) Five things South Africa must do to combat cybercrime

(Global) How Can Financial Services Combat Cyber Crime?

CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION

CISA, NSA Guidance Tries to Reduce Alternatives for Securing Industrial Control Systems
Mariam Baksh – Nextgov: 23 September 2022

U.S. policymakers in Congress and the Biden administration are grappling with how to set a performance bar for companies’ mitigation of cyber threats against critical infrastructure while allowing flexibility the companies say is needed to run their operations.


For more on this theme:

(Russia, Ukraine) Ukraine Says Russia Planning ‘Massive Cyberattacks’ on Critical Infrastructure

(Albania, Iran) Iran and Albania: diplomacy and cyber operations
https://thecyberwire.com/stories/0eae3d669684afab184a7a83e80cb1e/iran-and-albania-diplomacy-and-cyber-operations

(Global) How Technology Can Mitigate Cybersecurity Risks To Infrastructure
ISIS AND FOREIGN FIGHTERS

**ISIS attempts suicide attack on al-Hol camp in Syria**
Oren Liebermann and Barbara Starr – CNN: 22 September 2022

Islamic State group militants in two vehicles rigged with suicide explosives tried to attack the al-Hol camp in Syria that holds about 60,000 displaced persons, according to U.S. Central Command.


**Will Iran turn to al-Qaeda to combat Islamic State?**
Fatemeh Aman – The Middle East Institute: 23 September 2022

As the security situation in Afghanistan deteriorates and the Taliban seem incapable of defeating Islamic State-Khorasan Province (ISKP), Tehran is alarmed about the potential for civil war and the chances that such a conflict might spill over into Iran. Under these circumstances, Iran may look for more effective means of countering ISKP.

https://www.mei.edu/publications/will-iran-turn-al-qaeda-combat-islamic-state

For more on this theme:

- [Kurdish forces end 3-month operation against ISIS supporters in Syria’s al-Hol camp](https://english.alarabiya.net/News/middle-east/2022/09/17/Kurdish-forces-end-three-operation-against-ISIS-supporters-in-Syria-s-al-Hol-camp)


- [Following the Russian Embassy Suicide Bombing, ISKP Declares Expansion of Holy Jihad into Central Asia](https://www.hstoday.us/subject-matter-areas/counterterrorism/following-the-russian-embassy-suicide-bombing-iskp-declares-expansion-of-holy-jihad-into-central-asia/)

- [Islamic State claims first attacks inside Benin](https://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2022/09/islamic-state-claims-first-attacks-inside-benin.php)


TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

UN Questions Taliban Claims of Good Security, Governance in Afghanistan
Akmal Dawi – Voice of America: 27 September 2022

The United Nations warned that de facto Taliban authorities are failing in their claims of security and good governance in Afghanistan as terrorists such as the Islamic State group are increasingly conducting attacks across the country.


Five Zones of Militant Islamist Violence in the Sahel
Africa Center for Strategic Studies: 26 September 2022

The deterioration of the security environment in the western Sahel is marked by an array of differing actors, drivers and motivations, which calls for contextualized responses.

https://africacenter.org/spotlight/five-zones-militant-islamist-violence-sahel/

For more on this theme:
Wagner is being used in Africa as a proxy to target civilians
https://issafrica.org/iss-today/wagner-is-being-used-in-africa-as-a-proxy-to-target-civilians

IntelBrief: Hezbollah Threats Hinder Israel-Lebanon Sea Border Deal

US Believes al-Qaida, IS Shaken by Leadership Losses

A New Phase in the Fight against al-Shabaab in the Horn of Africa

An International Security Dilemma: Russia, Jihadism, and Afghanistan

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

Returning Pakistani Taliban Employs Extortion As Control Grows
https://gandhara.rferl.org/a/pakistan-taliban-return-extortion/32044957.html

Afghanistan: Taliban torture and execute Hazaras in targeted attack — new investigation

Afghan Insurgent Leader Calls for New Anti-Taliban ‘Political’ Front
CONFLICT AND CRIME

Investigation chief says Russia committed war crimes in Ukraine
*Emma Farge – Reuters: 23 September 2022*

Russia committed war crimes — including rape, torture, executions and the confinement of children — in areas it occupied in Ukraine, the head of a U.N. commission said.

https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/un-mandated-inquiry-concludes-war-crimes-were-committed-ukraine-2022-09-23/

For more on this theme:

**Russia Is Using Ethnic Minorities As Cannon Fodder In Ukraine**

**Many POWs freed by Russia had suffered torture – senior Ukraine official**

**EU-Wide Hackathon Targets Human Traffickers: Ukrainian Refugees Vulnerable**

**The Case for Creating a Special Tribunal to Prosecute the Crime of Aggression Against Ukraine**
https://www.justsecurity.org/83238/tribunal-crime-of-aggression-part-three/

**Framing the Problem of Hunger and Conflict at the UN Security Council**

RUSSIA/UKRAINE

**Lessons of the Ukraine War Thus Far**
Mykola Bielieskov – The Jamestown Foundation: 26 September 2022

The fighting has tested ideas on military development that had been widely discussed among Ukrainian military experts before the war.

https://jamestown.org/program/lessons-of-the-ukraine-war-thus-far/

For more on this theme:

**Analysis: Russia’s Ukraine gas transit sanction threat a fresh blow for Europe**

‘Smash and grab’: Meta uncovers Russia’s ‘largest and most complex’ info op since the war began
https://www.protocol.com/bulletins/meta-russia-china-takedowns

**Russian Oligarch and Allies Indicted For Sanctions Evasion**
RUSSIA/UKRAINE

For more on this theme:

Preventing the long war
https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/preparing-for-the-long-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

Ukrainian War Increasing Gender Imbalance in Russia, Threatening Future

Belarusian-Russian Cooperation Against the Backdrop of the Ukraine War
https://jamestown.org/program/belarusian-russian-cooperation-against-the-backdrop-of-the-ukraine-war/

Putin’s Botched Mobilization and Nuclear Non-Option
https://jamestown.org/program/putins-botched-mobilization-and-nuclear-non-option/

Analysis: As Putin escalates Ukraine war, China stands awkwardly by him

Russia’s Playing the Waiting Game, Applebaum Says
https://cepa.org/article/russias-playing-the-waiting-game-applebaum-says/

No Game Changer: Russian Mobilization May Slow, Not Stop, Ukrainian Offensive
https://www.rferl.org/a/russia-mobilization-ukraine-offensive-analysis/32046211.html

Charity Begins with Drones: Funding Ukraine’s Resistance
https://cepa.org/article/charity-begins-with-drones-funding-ukraines-resistance/

War in Ukraine Will Decide World’s Future: Reznikov
https://cepa.org/article/war-in-ukraine-will-decide-worlds-future-reznikov/

Ukraine War Risks Repercussions for Transnistria
https://carnegieendowment.org/politika/87986

Yes, Putin might use nuclear weapons. We need to plan for scenarios where he does

Opinion: Putin has just laid a landmine under his regime

Putin’s Dangerous Bet
https://cepa.org/article/putins-dangerous-bet/

Crimea in Ukraine’s Crosshairs, Say US Generals
https://cepa.org/article/crimea-in-ukraines-crosshairs-say-us-generals/

Russians Dash for the Exits
https://cepa.org/article/russians-dash-for-the-exits/
RUSSIA/UKRAINE

For more on this theme:

Putin Gambles on Winter and Orbán
https://cepa.org/article/putin-gambles-on-winter-and-orban/

‘Grotesque’ Russian disinfo campaign mimics Western news websites to sow dissent

Russia’s War in Ukraine: The Strategic Picture

Syria Insight: How the invasion of Ukraine has impacted on Russia
https://english.alaraby.co.uk/analysis/syria-insight-how-ukraine-war-has-impacted-russia

Rusty Guns
https://cepa.org/article/rusty-guns/

Expelling Russia from the UN Security Council — a How-to Guide

All Bluff? Russia’s Nuclear Threats
https://cepa.org/article/all-bluff-russias-nuclear-threats/

Finland Gets Russia: So Listen
https://cepa.org/article/finland-gets-russia-so-listen/

Putin Gambles His Future on Mobilization
https://cepa.org/article/putin-gambles-his-future-on-mobilization/

The Ukrainian General Behind Putin’s Defeats
https://cepa.org/article/the-ukrainian-general-behind-putins-defeats/

Among European right-wing populists, favorable views of Russia and Putin are down sharply

The Strategic Importance of Snake Island
https://cepa.org/comprehensive-reports/the-strategic-importance-of-snake-island/

The economic response that can match Putin’s escalation in Ukraine

Putin threatens to increase attacks on Ukraine’s civilian infrastructure
https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/ukrainealert/putin-threatens-to-increase-attacks-on-ukraines-civilian-infrastructure/

The West should not fear the prospect of a post-Putin Russia
RUSSIA/UKRAINE

For more on this theme:

Putin is losing the Ukraine war — and his actions are becoming less predictable

How Western Sanctions Are Quietly Undermining Russia's Fighting Power
https://worldcrunch.com/focus/western-sanctions-russian-military

The war in Ukraine shows how libraries play a vital role in challenging disinformation

Russia/Ukraine: Illegitimate results of sham ‘referenda’ must not enable illegal annexation of occupied areas

Russia's Stripped Its Western Borders to Feed the Fight in Ukraine

Occupied regions of Ukraine vote to join Russia in staged referendums

Russian Mobilization May Be Reinforcing Failure in Ukraine

Putin’s Central Asian allies embrace Russians fleeing draft

‘A way to get rid of us’: Crimean Tatars decry Russia’s mobilization

Statement by the North Atlantic Council on the so-called “referenda” in parts of Ukraine
https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/official_texts_207558.htm

World Opinion Shifts Against Russia as Ukraine Worries Grow

How Russia's Invasion Of Ukraine Divides The World

China's state media turning on Putin’s war
https://asiatimes.com/2022/09/chinas-state-media-turning-on-putins-war/