CONTENTS

COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)
Corruption
Drug Trafficking
Trafficking in Scarce or Protected Resources

PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)
Internet Governance
Internet Freedom
Cyber Statecraft and Capacity Building
Cybercrime
Cyberattacks, Threats and Vulnerabilities
Mass Surveillance and Intelligence Gathering

PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)
ISIS and Foreign Fighters
Terrorism Around the World
Radicalization
Irregular Warfare: Information Operations and Malign Influence - Russia
Irregular Warfare: Information Operations and Malign Influence - China

The Marshall Center
Transnational Weekly
is a current awareness, information and policy tool for Marshall Center stakeholders to inform them about online publications by think tanks, research institutes and other organizations that deal with transnational subjects. Use of these brief excerpts and links does not reflect the views of or endorsement by the Marshall Center, the U.S. government or the German government. All original content in these compilations is copyrighted unless specifically noted otherwise. All rights to copyrighted items are reserved.
COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

Asset recovery: a powerful tool in the fight against global corruption
Kristin M Lord, Jill Miller and Elayne Deelan – World Economic Forum: 14 February 2022
While the investigative reporting by the Pandora Papers and potential U.S. regulations are important steps to reduce illicit financial flows, there is an overlooked anti-corruption mechanism: asset recovery and return.
https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2022/02/asset-recovery-corruption/

Lebanon’s Central Bank Chief Vanishes as Corruption Probe Mounts
Dale Gavlak – Voice of America: 16 February 2022
The whereabouts of Lebanon’s Central Bank head Riad Salameh isn’t known, and he appears to be on the run after police raided his office and homes. Salameh has come under scrutiny since the collapse of Lebanon’s banking sector in 2019.

For more on this theme:
‘Classic Censorship’: Kremlin’s Bid To Silence Putin’s Political Enemies Puts Media In A Bind
https://www.rferl.org/a/russia-rozkomnadzor-media-censorship/31691677.html

Nigeria says it has recovered at least $750 mln linked to corruption
https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/nigeria-says-it-has-recovered-least-750-mln-linked-corrup-

Kazakhstan Billionaires ‘Named And Shamed’ In U.K. Parliament By Senior Politician As Corruption Sanctions Near
https://www.forbes.com/sites/daviddawkins/2022/02/04/kazakhstan-billionaires-named-and-shamed-in-uk-

‘Corruption tax’ proposed for South Africa – how it would work

The America COMPETES Act will help US fight corruption and kleptocracy around the world
https://thehill.com/opinion/international/592670-america-competes-act-will-help-us-fight-corrup-

Saudi Arabia’s anti-corruption campaign takes root
https://www.arabnews.com/node/2020831

Guatemala arrests anti-corruption officials amid brewing political crisis
**DRUG TRAFFICKING**

**Targeted Killings: The Favored Modus Operandi of Paraguay’s Drug Gangs**  
Scott Mistler-Ferguson – InSight Crime: 16 February 2022

Brazen killings by hired gunmen have shaken Paraguay recently as drug gangs increasingly use this method to target rivals.  
https://insightcrime.org/news/paraguay-targeted-killings/

**Drug trafficking in the Pacific Islands: The impact of transnational crime**  
Jose Sousa-Santos – Lowy Institute: 16 February 2022

The Pacific has become a lucrative drug corridor, driven by cartels, criminal organizations and local gangs. Regional states and traditional partners must respond quickly.  

For more on this theme:

**Syria’s emerging drug empire isn’t going away soon**  

**‘Everyone’s using’: Mozambique scrambles to stem a rising tide of drug addiction**  

**US asks Honduras to extradite ex-president suspected of drug trafficking**  

**High-Ranking Nigerian Police Officer Arrested for Alleged Drug Trafficking**  

**Failed coup puts spotlight back on Guinea-Bissau’s role in cocaine trade**  

**Spanish police bust drugs ring ‘simulating orca attacks’ to aid smuggling into ports**  

**Drug Trafficking, a Driving Force behind Environmental Degradation in the Peruvian Amazon**  

**Albania’s Ex Interior Minister Jailed for Helping Drug Traffickers**  

**Trafficking: Use of Online Marketplaces and Virtual Currencies in Drug and Human Trafficking**  
TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

Elephant tusk DNA helps crack down on poaching
Christina Larson – Fox: 15 February 2022

Three major criminal groups are responsible for smuggling most elephant tusks out of Africa, according to a new study. Researchers used analysis of DNA from seized tusks and other evidence to map trafficking across the continent.


Brazil launches plan to expand mining in Amazon
Phys.org: 14 February 2022

Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro launched a plan to expand gold mining in the Amazon rainforest, drawing criticism from environmentalists for bolstering an industry accused of rampant deforestation, pollution and attacks on Indigenous peoples.


For more on this theme:

How Google is helping fight climate change, illegal logging, flooding in Africa and a lot more with a service you haven’t heard of

Colombia’s Amazon indigenous groups train youth to defend rainforest
https://news.trust.org/item/20220209141114-o4u3i/

How a ‘dirty gambling company’ may have set the standard for habitat destruction in Cambodia

How The U.S. Can Fight China’s Fishy Business

Argentina Deploys New Patrol Ships to Ward Off China’s Squid Fleet

Foreign fishing fleets exploiting West, Central African coasts – Researchers

Chinese Fishing Fleet Wreaks Havoc in Latin American Oceans

Winds of change: Detecting species from airborne DNA just got real
PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

INTERNET GOVERNANCE

What is Web3? The future of the internet, a 'marketing buzzword' or something still to be defined?
Tom Williams – Australian Broadcasting Corp.: 10 February 2022

The future of the internet is a multitrillion-dollar question facing the technology industry, including some of the world’s wealthiest companies. At the center of a vigorous debate on how online experiences will evolve is a concept called Web3.

For more on this theme:

(Global) 5 ways to improve the governance of unstructured data

(Southeast Asia) In Southeast Asia, Regulatory Overreach No Silver Bullet to Internet Woes

INTERNET FREEDOM

Iran tightens grip on internet freedom
Maryam Mirza – Deutsche Welle: 15 February 2022

The Iranian parliament has introduced new measures to enforce restrictions on internet users. Rights activists have slammed the move.

For more on this theme:

(China) Tencent restores Fight Club ending after censorship backlash in China on social media

(China) Olympians Could Face ‘Certain Punishment’ In China If They Break Any Of These Censorship Rules

(Hong Kong) Hong Kong rights group says website not accessible through some networks
https://www.euronews.com/2022/02/16/us-hongkong-security-internet
CYBER STATECRAFT AND CAPACITY BUILDING

EU set to launch internet satellite system moving away from Chinese dependency
Leah Montebello – City A.M.: 15 February 2022
The European Union is gearing up to launch a satellite internet system to keep up with Amazon and Elon Musk’s SpaceX. The hope: Remove European reliance on Chinese-built infrastructure.

For more on this theme:
(U.K.) Demystifying the UK’s National Cyber Strategy 2022
(Global) How “dig once” can democratize digital connectivity
https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2022/02/how-dig-once-policies-can-democratize-digital-connectivity/
(India) E-commerce is the latest target in India’s push for an open digital economy

CYBERCRIME

74% of ransomware revenue goes to Russia-linked hackers
Joe Tidy – BBC: 15 February 2022
New analysis suggests that 74% of all money made through ransomware attacks in 2021 went to Russia-linked hackers. Researchers say more than $400 million worth of cryptocurrency payments went to groups “highly likely to be affiliated with Russia.”

For more on this theme:
(U.S.) FTC: Social Media Scams Surging, Represent an Underlooked Cyber Crime Risk
(India) A cybercrime group frames activists by planting fake evidence on their devices
https://interestingengineering.com/cybercrime-modifielephant-dissent
(Canada) Majority of companies targeted by malware pay the ransom
CYBERATTACKS, THREATS AND VULNERABILITIES

‘Unprecedented’ cyberattack targets websites of Ukrainian MOD, banks
Tzvi Joffre – The Jerusalem Post: 16 February 2022

Last month, Ukrainian government websites were targeted by a cyberattack blamed on Russia. An “unprecedented” distributed denial-of-service attack targeting the website of the Ukrainian Defense Ministry was operating in early February, according to an update from the ministry.

https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/article-696598

For more on this theme:

(U.S.) San Francisco 49ers’ network hit by gang’s ransomware attack; team notifies law enforcement

(U.S.) U.S. warns defense contractors about possible Russian cyber attacks

(Poland) Poland raises alert against cyber attacks

MASS SURVEILLANCE AND INTELLIGENCE GATHERING

Cambodia steps up surveillance with new internet gateway
Agence France-Presse: 14 February 2022

Cambodia is powering up its new National Internet Gateway, a move activists say will allow the government to further silence the country’s embattled opposition.


For more on this theme:

(Burma) Myanmar urged to scrap draconian cybersecurity bill

(China) Eyes everywhere: China’s surveillance equipment spreads worldwide

(China) China invading into people’s private lives by using surveillance cameras implemented to monitor COVID spread
PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

ISIS AND FOREIGN FIGHTERS

Islamic State evolves ‘emoji’ tactics to peddle propaganda online
Mark Scott – Politico: 10 February 2022

ISIS is adapting its strategies to different social media networks so it can keep disseminating its violent content.
https://www.politico.eu/article/islamic-state-disinformation-social-media/

ISIS Expanding In Nigeria, Other Africa Countries Despite Leader’s Death, United Nations Warns
Sahara Reporters: 10 February 2022

The United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism says ISIS is expanding its affiliates and network beyond Syria and Iraq to Africa. Vladimir Voronkov, under-secretary-general of the office, said the terrorist activities were gaining ground in Central and West Africa, which he said continues at an “unsettling” scale and pace.
http://saharareporters.com/2022/02/10/isis-expanding-nigeria-other-africa-countries-despite-leader%E2%80%99s-death-united-nations-warns

For more on this theme:

Even with its head severed, Islamic State may continue to bite

Is Islamic State Growing Stronger?
https://www.voanews.com/a/is-islamic-state-growing-stronger-/6431079.html

The bittersweet taste of home: Former ISIL wife returns to Kazakhstan

Children are being used as ‘human shields’ in Syria – what is the world doing about it?

A closer look at the ISIS attack on Syria’s al-Sina Prison

ISIS-K nearly doubled in size following Taliban prison releases: United Nations

US-allied Syria Kurdish commander warns of growing ISIS threat

ISIS Leader Killed in US Raid: Ramifications
https://www.voanews.com/a/6416059.html
TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

Banned TTP rejects link with Al Qaeda, ISIS, says its target is only Pakistan
ANI: 14 February 2022
Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan has rejected any link with ISIS and al-Qaida, stating the group has no “global agenda” and its target is only Pakistan.


Al-Qaeda, ISIS, Hamas Using Cryptos For Terror Activities, Says Chainalysis Report
Harsh Kumar – Outlook: 17 February 2022
A recent report points at terror financing through cryptocurrencies. Terrorist organizations, including alQaida, ISIS and Hamas, attempted to finance their operations using cryptocurrency in 2021, according to a report released by Chainalysis, a Singapore blockchain data platform, on February 16, 2022.


For more on this theme:

About $6.9 billion lost to Boko Haram insurgency in North-east – Governor Zulum

Afghan women face increasing violence and repression under the Taliban after international spotlight fades

Faced with disappearances, beatings and intimidation, Afghanistan’s women’s rights activists go quiet on the streets
https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2022/02/08/afghanistan-taliban-women-protests/

US Launches App to Fight Terrorism

Africa’s Islamist Terrorism Problem Is a Global, Not Local, Threat

Islamic State, Al-Qaida Building Support in Afghanistan, Report Says

Controversy among jihadists in Idlib over killing of Islamic State leader
RADICALIZATION

Solutions exist for Canada’s alt-right radicalization
Jennifer Wolowic – The Conversation: 15 February 2022

The Emergencies Act may clear the streets, but protests have revealed the foothold alt-right extremism has in Canada. The government response has been outmatched by internet-based misinformation, organization and recruitment.

https://theconversation.com/solutions-exist-for-canadas-alt-right-radicalization-176966

For more on this theme:
Rohingya Militancy: Myth or Reality?
https://thediplomat.com/2022/02/rohingya-militancy-myth-or-reality/

Can the UK’s First Terrorist Prison Unit Succeed?
https://www.algemeiner.com/2022/02/15/can-the-uks-first-terrorist-prison-unit-succeed/

How Adaptive DDRR Could Help Address Violent Extremism in Cabo Delgado
https://theglobalobservatory.org/2022/02/how-adaptive-ddrr-could-help-address-violent-extremism-in-cabo-delgado/

Beware of spies and radicalisation attempts online: ASIO chief

IRREGULAR WARFARE: INFORMATION OPERATIONS AND MALIGN INFLUENCE – RUSSIA

Russia Fine-Tuning Info Ops as Tensions With Ukraine Rise
Jeff Seldin – Voice of America: 15 February 2022

Russia’s effort to encircle Ukraine with more than 150,000 troops has been accompanied by a shift in its information operations, including a noted increase in targeting United States audiences, according to a senior U.S. Homeland Security official.


For more on this theme:
U.S. intelligence report details ‘indirect’ Russian government support for Western neofascist groups

A world away from Ukraine, Russia is courting Latin America
https://indianexpress.com/article/world/a-world-away-from-ukraine-russia-is-courting-latin-america-7776051/lite/

The Threat of External Actors' Influence in the Upcoming Colombian Elections
Chinese Influence Operations: A Machiavellian Moment
Paul Charon and Jean-Baptiste Jeangène Vilmer – Diálogo: 14 February 2022

For a long time, it could be said that China, unlike Russia, sought to be loved rather than to be feared, that it wanted to project a positive image of itself in the world. Today, Beijing is increasingly comfortable with infiltration and coercion, with influence operations that increasingly resemble Moscow’s.

https://dialogo-americas.com/articles/chinese-influence-operations-a-machiavellian-moment/

For more on this theme:

Slovak municipalities pressured to take on one-China policy, experts claim
https://www.euractiv.com/section/politics/short_news/%E2%80%8B%E2%80%8Bslovak-municipali-
ties-pressed-to-take-on-one-china-policy-experts-claim/

China selling armed drones to stealthy strategic effect
https://asiatimes.com/2022/02/china-selling-armed-drones-to-stealthy-strategic-effect/

Countering Threats Posed by the Chinese Government Inside the U.S.

How China Spies on Nations Throughout Western Hemisphere
https://www.heritage.org/cybersecurity/commentary/how-china-spies-nations-throughout-western-hemisphere

U.S. vows stepped-up Indo-Pacific effort in push back against China
https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/us-vows-stepped-up-indo-pacific-effort-push-back-against-chi-

US to reopen Solomon Islands embassy to counter Chinese influence

Taiwan: China's Gray Zone Doctrine in Action
https://smallwarsjournal.com/jrnl/art/taiwan-chinas-gray-zone-doctrine-action

EU tempts Africa away from Chinese influence

India and China’s push for influence in Sri Lanka
https://www.policyforum.net/india-and-chinas-push-for-influence-in-sri-lanka/

China’s Growing Influence Should Concern You
https://www.heritage.org/asia/commentary/chinas-growing-influence-should-concern-you

China will ‘try in every way’ to influence Australian politics
video/ab56c848968db623619b19b666312eb9