

THE MARSHALL CENTER

transnational weekly



A CURRENT AWARENESS SERVICE FROM THE MARSHALL CENTER

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COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

Radio Farda Exposé On IRGC Corruption, Infighting Raises Ire Of Iranian Authorities

Golnaz Esfandiari – Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty: 18 February 2022

In a leaked audio recording, two former senior officials of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps discuss corruption that helps fund the force's secretive military operations abroad, shedding light on the country's clerical regime.

<https://www.rferl.org/a/farda-leaked-conversation-corruption-irgc/31710316.html>

Crackdown on Guatemala Prosecutors Intensifies Amid Presidential Corruption Claims

Alex Papadovassilakis – InSight Crime: 23 February 2022

With cries of corruption mounting against Guatemala's president, the country's attorney general, Consuelo Porras, has ramped up her crackdown on prosecutors investigating high-level graft.

<https://insightcrime.org/news/guatemala-prosecutor-crackdown-corruption/>

For more on this theme:

China arrests former deputy banking regulator on bribery charges

<https://www.aljazeera.com/economy/2022/2/10/bchina-arrests-former-deputy-banking-regulator-on-bribery-charges>

Rogue employee or Goldman scapegoat? Ex-banker's 1MDB corruption trial to kick off

<https://www.reuters.com/markets/us/rogue-employee-or-goldman-scapegoat-ex-bankers-1mdb-corruption-trial-kick-off-2022-02-10/>

Syria: Sweida protesters decry corruption, poor living standards

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/2/11/syria-sweida-protesters-decry-corruption-poor-living-standards>

What are the Most Corrupt Countries in Latin America?

<https://insightcrime.org/news/what-are-the-most-corrupt-countries-in-latin-america/>

South Africa court dismisses former president's application to remove prosecutor at his corruption trial

<https://www.jurist.org/news/2022/02/south-africa-court-dismisses-former-presidents-application-to-remove-prosecutor-at-his-corruption-trial/>

Former president of Mozambique defends his actions in corruption case

<https://www.africanews.com/2022/02/18/former-president-of-mozambique-defends-his-actions-in-corruption-case/>

Kazakh MPs approve anti-corruption legislative amendments

<https://www.azernews.az/region/189358.htmlb>

Senate launches group to examine embattled US prison system

<https://apnews.com/article/senate-group-to-examine-bureau-of-prisons-abuse-corruption-f63728c39dd29f87543b12d38967304b>

DRUG TRAFFICKING

Syria drug trafficking is becoming more 'organised', Jordan military says

Middle East Monitor: 19 February 2022

The trafficking of narcotics from Syria into Jordan is growing more sophisticated through the use of arms, drones and better vehicles, Jordanian military officers said.

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20220219-syria-drug-trafficking-is-becoming-more-organised-jordan-military-says/>

Tajikistan says Afghan instability fueling narcotics trade boom

Eurasianet: 18 February 2022

Authorities in Dushanbe say the illegal narcotics interdicted in 2021 increased 69% from 2020.

<https://eurasianet.org/tajikistan-says-afghan-instability-fueling-narcotics-trade-boom>

For more on this theme:

As fentanyl flows across Mexico border, CBP tries powerful scanning technology

<https://fiorreports.com/as-fentanyl-flows-across-mexico-border-cbp-tries-powerful-scanning-technology/>

Colombia's former armed forces chief accused of drug trafficking

<https://colombiareports.com/colombias-former-armed-forces-chief-accused-of-drug-trafficking/>

Sweeping Anti-Drug Trafficking Operation Hits Albanians in Europe

<https://exit.al/en/2022/02/17/sweeping-anti-drug-trafficking-operation-hits-albanians-in-europe/>

Digital drug trafficking & cryptocurrency: How investigators are adapting to evolving crime trends

<https://www.wkrn.com/special-reports/digital-drug-trafficking-cryptocurrency-how-investigators-are-adapting-to-evolving-crime-trends/>

Drug smuggling: Jordan's emerging challenge

<https://www.jordantimes.com/opinion/amer-al-sabaileh/drug-smuggling-jordans-emerging-challenge>

Burglars steal confessions of Colombian drug lord 'Otoniel'

<https://www.dw.com/en/burglars-steal-confessions-of-colombian-drug-lord-otoniel/a-60846136>

Operation Black Tide: The Voyage of a Drug Sub Across the Atlantic

<https://insightcrime.org/news/operation-oil-slick-the-voyage-of-a-drug-sub-across-the-atlantic/>

US Coast Guard Cutter Seizes \$1 Billion in Drugs

<https://www.voanews.com/a/us-coast-guard-cutter-seizes-1-billion-dollars-in-drugs/6447792.html>

MDMA Dog Kibble and Soup: How Drug Dealers Smuggle Goods Through the Post

<https://www.vice.com/en/article/m7vpqb/sending-drugs-through-the-post>

A wave of drug smuggling from Brazil

<https://www.hellenicshippingnews.com/a-wave-of-drug-smuggling-from-brazil/>

Cocaine Flows from the Dominican Republic to Puerto Rico

<https://insightcrime.org/news/cocaine-flows-from-dominican-republic-to-puerto-rico/>

TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

Illegal trade in drugs and wildlife

Vanda Felbab-Brown and David Dollar – Brookings: 22 February 2022

Vanda Felbab-Brown, Brookings' director of the Initiative on Nonstate Actors, talks about her research on illicit economies – including drug trafficking and wildlife trafficking – in China, Mexico and elsewhere.

<https://www.brookings.edu/podcast-episode/illegal-trade-in-drugs-and-wildlife/>

AI to Bring the Next Wildlife Conservation Revolution

Manisha Nainani – Outlook India: 18 February 2022

Face detectors, bio-logger tags and DNA analysis: Welcome to the new language of wildlife conservation.

<https://www.outlookindia.com/outlooktraveller/travelnews/story/71917/ai-based-solutions-to-wildlife-protection-on-the-rise>

For more on this theme:

China's illegal, unregulated fishing in Indian ocean poses challenges

<https://www.wionews.com/india-news/chinas-illegal-unregulated-fishing-in-indian-ocean-poses-challenges-452343>

About 60 killed in blast at informal gold mine — Burkina Faso state TV

<https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/least-55-killed-explosion-burkina-faso-gold-mine-site-2022-02-21/>

Where trafficked pangolins originate is a puzzle, hobbling efforts to save them

<https://news.mongabay.com/2022/02/where-trafficked-pangolins-originate-is-a-puzzle-hobbling-efforts-to-save-them/>

Demand for Chinese Traditional Medicine Fuels Illegal Wildlife Trafficking in Africa

<https://www.natureworldnews.com/articles/49517/20220221/chinese-traditional-medicine-wildlife-trafficking-africa.htm>

Study: Small Groups Responsible for Smuggling Elephant Tusks

<https://learningenglish.voanews.com/a/study-small-groups-responsible-for-smuggling-elephant-tusks/6445818.html>

Asia's Unceasing Pangolin Demand

<https://www.traffic.org/news/asias-unceasing-pangolin-demand/>

Frontliners at Malaysia's international postal hub equipped with tools to detect wildlife in the mail

<https://www.traffic.org/news/frontliners-at-malaysias-international-postal-hub-equipped-with-tools-to-detect-wildlife-in-mail/>

These tiny succulent plants are being poached by the thousands

<https://www.vox.com/down-to-earth/22935166/succulent-plant-poaching-jared-margulies>

Big-data tracking technologies can uncover wildlife secrets and improve conservation efforts

<https://phys.org/news/2022-02-big-data-tracking-technologies-uncover-wildlife.html>

ORGANIZED CRIME

How Is China Involved In Organized Crime In Mexico?

Nathaniel Parish Flannery – Forbes: 23 February 2022

Over the past few years, China's presence in Mexico has expanded in legal and illegal activities. According to preliminary data, trade between China and Mexico topped \$100 billion in 2021, a record. While legitimate commerce between the countries is growing, Chinese groups are becoming more involved in drug trafficking and money laundering in Mexico.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/nathanielparishflannery/2022/02/23/how-is-china-tied-to-organized-crime-in-mexico/?sh=671f1fa22bd1>

For more on this theme:

Organized Crime Destroys Latin American Forests

<https://dialogo-americas.com/articles/organized-crime-destroys-latin-american-forests/>

Organized crime is taking over Mexican fisheries

<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/order-from-chaos/2022/02/22/organized-crime-is-taking-over-mexican-fisheries/>

Africa's Crime-Terror Nexus: Transnational Organised Crime, Illicit Economic Networks and Violent Extremism in the Sahel

<https://globalriskinsights.com/2022/02/africas-crime-terror-nexus-transnational-organised-crime-illicit-economic-networks-and-violent-extremism-in-the-sahel/>

PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

INTERNET GOVERNANCE

China and Russia Want to Rule the Global Internet

Charles Mok – The Diplomat: 22 February 2022

The model of surveillance and censorship that China and Russia use threatens a free, open and secure future internet.

<https://thediplomat.com/2022/02/china-and-russia-want-to-rule-the-global-internet/>

For more on this theme:

(Global) Elliott School researchers updating international data governance map

<https://www.gwhatchet.com/2022/01/31/elliott-school-researchers-updating-international-data-governance-map/>

(China, U.S., Global) The US must broaden its internet strategy beyond China

<https://www.brookings.edu/techstream/the-us-must-broaden-its-internet-strategy-beyond-china/>

(China, Global) China Is About to Regulate AI — and the World Is Watching

<https://www.wired.com/story/china-regulate-ai-world-watching/>

INTERNET FREEDOM

As ‘Great Firewall’ looms, fears for Hong Kong’s free internet

John Power – Al-Jazeera: 17 February 2022

For decades, Hong Kong’s internet operated outside the reach of China’s vast army of censors, guaranteeing the free flow of information that undergirds the city’s status as a global business hub. Little by little, that is starting to change, as a small but growing list of websites go dark under a sweeping crackdown on dissent.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/economy/2022/2/17/as-great-firewall-looms-fears-for-hong-kongs-free-internet>

For more on this theme:

(Hong Kong, China) Website of NGO Hong Kong Watch partially blocked amid rising fears of internet censorship

<https://globalvoices.org/2022/02/18/website-of-ngo-hong-kong-watch-partially-blocked-amid-rising-fears-of-internet-censorship/>

(Zimbabwe) Zim Ranked Third Most Internet Censor In The World

<https://www.newzimbabwe.com/zim-ranked-third-most-internet-censor-in-the-world/>

(China, Global) China: Censorship Mars Beijing Olympics

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/02/18/china-censorship-mars-beijing-olympics#>

CYBER STATECRAFT AND CAPACITY BUILDING

EU to mobilize cyber team to help Ukraine fight Russian cyberattacks

Laurens Cerulus – Politico: 21 February 2022

The European Union will activate a team of cybersecurity experts to help Ukraine fight off cyberattacks from Russia, officials told Politico. The EU's Cyber Rapid Response Team includes cybersecurity officials from six European countries – Croatia, Estonia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Poland and Romania – who can provide assistance to countries under cyberattack. The team falls under the EU's defense cooperation; this will be its first deployment.

<https://www.politico.eu/article/ukraine-russia-eu-cyber-attack-security-help/>

For more on this theme:

(India) India looks to redraw plan for cybersecurity policy: Officials

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/india-looks-to-redraw-plan-for-cybersecurity-policyofficials-101644601423461.html>

(France) France launches “Cyber Campus” to boost cybersecurity strategy

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/cybersecurity/news/france-launches-new-cyber-campus-to-boost-cybersecurity-strategy/>

(Canada) Government of Canada announces next phase to strengthen Cyber Security Innovation Network

<https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/government-of-canada-announces-next-phase-to-strengthen-cyber-security-innovation-network-804173509.html>

CYBERCRIME

Hackers beware: Justice Department doubles down on efforts to thwart global cybercrime

Josh Meyer – USA Today: 17 February 2022

Fresh off its largest financial seizure, the U.S. Justice Department said it is increasing efforts to combat the sharp rise in ransomware attacks worldwide and will prioritize disrupting cybercriminals before they act.

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2022/02/17/cybercrime-focus-justice-department-crack-down-global-hackers/6828688001/>

For more on this theme:

(Global) There's a huge surge in hackers holding data for ransom, and experts want everyone to take these steps

<https://fortune.com/2022/02/17/ransomware-attacks-surge-2021-report/>

(India) Government to come up with regulation to put onus of cyber crime reporting on organisations: MoS IT

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/business/2022/feb/23/government-to-come-up-with-regulation-to-put-onus-of-cyber-crime-reporting-on-organisationsmos-it-2422937.html>

(Russia, China) Ransomware Adds New Wrinkle in Russian Cybercrime Market

<https://www.darkreading.com/edge-articles/the-evolving-threat-of-russian-cybercrime>

CYBERATTACKS, THREATS AND VULNERABILITIES

Iranian State Broadcaster IRIB Hit by Destructive Wiper Malware

Ravie Lakshmanan – The Hacker News: 21 February 2022

An investigation into the cyberattack targeting the state Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting in January 2022 revealed wiper malware and other custom implants as national infrastructure continues to face a wave of attacks.

https://thehackernews.com/2022/02/iranian-state-broadcaster-irib-hits-by_21.html

For more on this theme:

(U.S.) Cyber Attacks On Schools: Who, What, Why and Now What?

<https://www.govtech.com/education/k-12/cyber-attacks-on-schools-who-what-why-and-now-what>

(India) Suspected cyber attack cripples box terminal run by Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/logistics/suspected-cyber-attack-cripples-box-terminal-run-by-jawaharlal-nehru-port-authority/article65073293.ece>

(Switzerland) University of Neuchâtel back online after cyberattack

<https://www.swissinfo.ch/eng/university-of-neuch%C3%A2tel-hit-by-cyberattack/47360432>

(Jordan) Jordanian official says Royal Court among cyber attack targets this year

<https://www.thenationalnews.com/mena/jordan/2022/02/20/jordanian-official-says-royal-court-among-cyber-attack-targets-this-year/>

CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION

New Ransomware Warning for Critical Infrastructure Providers

Phil Muncaster – Info Security: 10 February 2022

Australian, United Kingdom and United States authorities have issued a warning for critical infrastructure providers after a surge in ransomware attacks in the past year.

<https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/news/new-ransomware-warning-critical/>

For more on this theme:

(U.S.) Critical Infrastructure Protection: Agencies Need to Assess Adoption of Cybersecurity Guidance

<https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-22-105103>

(Belgium) Prosecutors probe cyber attack on Belgian ports

<https://www.brusselstimes.com/204539/prosecutors-probe-cyber-attack-on-belgian-ports>

(Global) Get Ready for Cyber-Attacks on Global Food Supplies

<https://www.wired.co.uk/article/cyber-security-global-food-supply>

PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

ISIS AND FOREIGN FIGHTERS

ISIS Supporters in the United States Urged to Join 'ISIS North America'

Bridget Johnson – Homeland Security Today: 21 February 2022

A video posted online urges followers of the Islamic State to help form a province of the terror group in the United States called ISIS North America. Wording in the recruitment video suggests that the group intends to target Muslims who are regarded as turning their back on ISIS' interpretation of Islam.

<https://www.hstoday.us/featured/isis-supporters-in-the-united-states-urged-to-join-isis-north-america/>

Islamic State: death of leader is big step towards becoming a different kind of terrorist organization

Elisa Orofino – The Conversation: 21 February 2022

ISIS appeared to be a motivated, well-led insurgency group dedicated to building its own “caliphate” in conquered areas across the Middle East. Now, the recent violent death of its leader, Abu Ibrahim al-Qurayshi, has left analysts wondering whether the group has largely been neutralized. That's doubtful – ISIS has been able to change over the years to suit its circumstances.

<https://theconversation.com/islamic-state-death-of-leader-is-big-step-towards-becoming-a-different-kind-of-terrorist-organisation-177180>

For more on this theme:

Reward Offered for Information on ISIS-K Leader Sanauallah Ghafari and Kabul Airport Attack

<https://www.hstoday.us/subject-matter-areas/counterterrorism/reward-offered-for-information-on-isis-k-leader-sanauallah-ghafari-and-kabul-airport-attack/>

Tunnel warfare: the Islamic State's subterranean war

<https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/north-africa-west-asia/tunnel-warfare-the-islamic-states-subterranean-war/>

Turkey Is Barely Keeping a Lid On the Islamic State

<https://nationalinterest.org/feature/turkey-barely-keeping-lid-islamic-state-200534>

Islamic State's Quest for Legitimacy Through Contradictory Messaging

<https://gnet-research.org/2022/02/09/islamic-states-quest-for-legitimacy-through-contradictory-messaging/>

ISIS's Leadership Crisis

<https://www.theportal-center.com/2022/02/isiss-leadership-crisis/>

Survivor describes the horror as an ISIS slave under former leader

<https://www.cnn.com/videos/world/2022/02/18/yazidi-survivor-isis-leader-syria-karadsheh-pkg-tgb-intl-hnk-vpx.cnn>

TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

Cryptocurrency and Terrorist Financing in Asia

Asif Muztaba Hassan and Shamsul Nawed Nafees – The Diplomat: 4 February 2022

Many states in Asia are falling behind in regulating crypto, making it an attractive tool for local terrorist groups.

<https://thediplomat.com/2022/02/cryptocurrency-and-terrorist-financing-in-asia/>

The Taliban Confront the Realities of Power

Jon Lee Anderson – The New Yorker: 21 February 2022

The Taliban fought for decades to retake Afghanistan, but promises of a new start are already colliding with internal divisions and external opposition.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2022/02/28/the-taliban-confront-the-realities-of-power-afghanistan>

For more on this theme:

Activity Shows Terror Groups and Right-Wing Extremists Were Undeterred by COVID-19 Pandemic

<https://www.hstoday.us/featured/activity-shows-terror-groups-and-extremists-were-undeterred-by-covid-19-pandemic/>

Hezbollah can turn rockets into precision missiles, make drones -Nasrallah

<https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/hezbollah-making-drones-can-turn-rockets-into-precision-missiles-nasrallah-2022-02-16/>

Pakistan's ambivalent approach toward a resurgent Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan

<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/order-from-chaos/2022/02/11/pakistans-ambivalent-approach-toward-a-resurgent-tehrik-e-taliban-pakistan/>

Taliban Says New Troops Near Central Asian Borders Will Bring Stability. The Neighbors Are Not So Sure.

<https://www.rferl.org/a/taliban-troops-central-asia-borders-stability/31707042.html>

Cyber Terrorism Is a Growing Threat & Governments Must Take Action

<https://www.darkreading.com/attacks-breaches/cyber-terrorism-is-a-growing-threat-governments-must-take-action>

The Dynamic Terrorism Landscape and What It Means for America

<https://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2022/02/the-dynamic-terrorism-landscape-and-what-it-means-for-america.php>

Global jihadist movement will present a significant threat in 2022, says report

<https://theprint.in/world/global-jihadist-movement-will-present-a-significant-threat-in-2022-says-report/843563/>

US Begins Counter-terrorism Training in Africa Amid Upheaval

<https://www.voanews.com/a/6451365.html>

IRREGULAR WARFARE: CYBER

The US is unmasking Russian hackers faster than ever

Patrick Howell O'Neill – MIT Technology Review: 21 February 2022

The White House was quick to publicly blame Russia for a cyberattack against Ukraine, the latest sign that cyber attribution is a crucial tool in the U.S. arsenal.

<https://www.technologyreview.com/2022/02/21/1046087/russian-hackers-ukraine/>

For more on this theme:

Chinese hackers linked to months-long attack on Taiwanese financial sector

<https://therecord.media/chinese-hackers-linked-to-months-long-attack-on-taiwanese-financial-sector/>

Russia-backed hackers behind powerful new malware, UK and US say

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/feb/23/russia-hacking-malware-cyberattack-virus-ukraine>

Russia is using an onslaught of cyber attacks to undermine Ukraine's defence capabilities

<https://theconversation.com/russia-is-using-an-onslaught-of-cyber-attacks-to-undermine-ukraines-defence-capabilities-177638>

Russia and China devote more cyber forces to offensive operations than US, says new report

<https://www.c4isrnet.com/cyber/2022/02/14/russia-and-china-devote-more-cyber-forces-to-offensive-operations-than-us-says-new-report/>

IRREGULAR WARFARE: PROXY FORCES AND PRIVATE MILITARY GROUPS

Kataib Hezbollah movements in Iraq and abroad spark concern

Shelly Kittleson – Al-Monitor: 16 February 2022

Hints of a greater presence of an armed faction with government-salaried brigades in a Sunni-dominant province has sparked outcry, as Kataib Hezbollah continues to raise money for operations in other countries.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2022/02/kataib-hezbollah-movements-iraq-and-abroad-spark-concern>

For more on this theme:

Foreign-backed militia networks must be dismantled in the Arab world

<https://gulfnnews.com/opinion/editorials/foreign-backed-militia-networks-must-be-dismantled-in-the-arab-world-1.85503928>

To Stop Iran's Proxy Terrorists, Stop Iran

<https://www.defenseone.com/ideas/2022/02/stop-irans-proxy-terrorists-stop-iran/362248/>

Iran-backed attacks are further driving UAE-Israeli defense tech development

<https://www.defensenews.com/global/mideast-africa/2022/02/21/iran-backed-attacks-are-further-driving-uae-israeli-defense-tech-development/>

Is Africa Russia's Next Target?

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/mikeosullivan/2022/02/19/is-africa-russias-next-target/?sh=4a07e62c71d8>

IRREGULAR WARFARE: INFORMATION OPERATIONS AND MALIGN INFLUENCE

The country inoculating against disinformation

Amy Yee – BBC: 30 January 2022

Subjected to repeated disinformation campaigns, the tiny Baltic country of Estonia sees media literacy education as part of its digital-first culture and national security.

<https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20220128-the-country-inoculating-against-disinformation>

The UK Ends its ‘Golden Visa’ System Over Foreign Corruption Concerns

Trevor Filseth – The National Interest: 20 February 2022

Russian influence looms large in the decision by the United Kingdom to cancel its visa program that gives foreign investors a direct pathway to legal residence within the country.

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/uk-ends-its-%E2%80%98golden-visa%E2%80%99-system-over-foreign-corruption-concerns-200688>

For more on this theme:

China’s penetration into South America: A Case study of Argentina

<https://modern diplomacy.eu/2022/02/10/chinas-penetration-into-south-america-a-case-study-of-argentina/>

Russia Has Big Plans for Africa

<https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/africa/2022-02-17/russia-has-big-plans-africa>

Russia’s disinformation campaign against the U.S.

<https://penntoday.upenn.edu/news/russias-disinformation-campaign-against-us>

European Parliament calls on EU to strengthen defences against disinformation and elite capture

<https://www.theparliamentmagazine.eu/news/article/european-parliament-calls-on-eu-to-strengthen-defences-against-disinformation-and-elite-capture>

Ukraine-Russia crisis: who’s winning the international influence war?

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/feb/19/ukraine-russia-crisis-whos-winning-the-international-influence-war-russia-putin>

EU facing Chinese competition for influence in Africa

<https://www.sabcnews.com/eu-facing-chinese-competition-for-influence-in-africa/>

Ukraine’s drift away from Russian influence

<https://www.npr.org/2022/02/23/1082622846/ukraines-drift-away-from-russian-influence>

China and Russia position themselves for Laos’ fast-approaching post-LDC era

<https://www.eastasiaforum.org/2022/02/10/china-and-russia-position-themselves-for-laos-fast-approaching-post-ldc-era/>

Private military contractors bolster Russian influence in Africa

<https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20220204-private-military-contractors-bolster-russian-influence-in-africa>