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A CURRENT AWARENESS SERVICE FROM THE MARSHALL CENTER

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COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

An online protest movement exposes corruption in Uganda. Officials and others are rattled Rodney Muhumuza – The Associated Press: 4 March 2024

Abuse of public funds. Failing hospitals. Potholes in the streets. These and other issues feature in an online campaign where street protests are practically outlawed.

https://apnews.com/article/uganda-corruption-online-protest-campaign-93c139562805c3ffa77b0bf9 2d14e6c5

'We want to eradicate corruption': Guatemala's new president makes promises that stir hope — and impatience

Michael Fox - The World: 1 March 2024

Bernardo Arévalo introduced his anti-corruption team that's going to lead the charge, but the road ahead is not easy.

https://theworld.org/stories/2024-03-01/we-want-eradicate-corruption-guatemala-s-new-president-makes-promises-stir-hope

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https://www.u4.no/publications/evolving-anti-corruption-practice-in-rebuilding-ukraine-the-agency-for-restoration-and-infrastructure-development

Gender and corruption in the access to natural resources: Preliminary findings

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Corruption study: one in three Swiss companies pays bribes abroad

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Japan prime minister apologizes over governing party's corruption scandal

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Vietnam real estate tycoon faces death penalty in \$12.5 billion corruption trial

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DRUG TRAFFICKING

US-China relations and fentanyl and precursor cooperation in 2024 Vanda Felbab-Brown – Brookings: 29 February 2024

China agreed to restart cooperation with the United States in November 2023 to counter the flow of synthetic opioids into the U.S.

https://www.brookings.edu/articles/us-china-relations-and-fentanyl-and-precursor-cooperation-in-2024/

Drugs online: UN-backed body offers solutions to counter narcotics surge

United Nations News: 5 March 2024

Drug dealers have continued to use digital technology, social media and disinformation to sell their illegal produce, fueling narcotics consumption globally, a report showed.

https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/03/1147252

Full report:

Annual Report 2023 — International Narcotics Control Board (INCB)

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Ex-Honduran president 'paved a cocaine superhighway' to US, feds claim in bribery trial closing

https://www.courthousenews.com/ex-honduran-president-paved-a-cocaine-superhighway-to-us-feds-claim-in-bribery-trial-closing/

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I Trafficked \$5 Million Worth of Cocaine Internationally

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Dutch crime boss goes down, but cocaine trade here to stay

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Environmental Crime Directive Given More Teeth to Protect Wildlife

Humane Society International /Europe – Impakter: 29 February 2024

The European Parliament has approved the revised directive, strengthening the European Union's approach to addressing environmental crime.

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With drop in illegal fishing comes rise in piracy, study in Indonesia finds

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ORGANIZED CRIME

European Prosecutor: Organized Crime Groups Target EU Funds

Zdravko Ljubas - Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project: March 2024

The European Public Prosecutor's Office warned in its 2023 annual report that organized crime continues to inflict substantial harm on the European Union's budget, estimating the damage at U.S. \$20.84 billion in 2023.

https://www.occrp.org/en/daily/18522-european-prosecutor-organized-crime-groups-target-eu-funds

Organized crime attacks on local candidates raise fears Mexico may face its bloodiest elections ever

Fabiola Sánchez – The Associated Press: 3 March 2024

As the country prepares for the largest elections in its history, organized crime is once again preying on candidates across swaths of the country where cartels dominate.

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How Criminal Groups Help Expand Mexico's Multibillion-Dollar Avocado Industry

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Organised criminals make Douala their gateway to global markets

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Uzbekistan is Developing Its First National Strategy Against Organized Crime

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How criminals prey on South Asian business owners

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How Cybercriminals are Exploiting India's UPI for Money Laundering Operations

https://thehackernews.com/2024/03/how-cybercriminals-are-exploiting.html

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Vietnam may ban virtual assets to fix its bad rep for money laundering

https://www.theregister.com/2024/03/01/vietnam_crypto_regs/

PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

INTERNET GOVERNANCE

Why We Need a Global AI Compact

Amlan Mohanty - Carnegie: 1 March 2024

The rapid acceleration of artificial intelligence has raised important geopolitical issues around digital sovereignty, economic competitiveness and sustainable development.

https://carnegieindia.org/2024/03/01/why-we-need-global-ai-compact-pub-91850

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(Global) How Open Networks May Change Market Access and Internet Governance

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INTERNET FREEDOM

Hong Kong is seeing growing internet censorship, and some American companies are using burner phones when visiting, says a top US diplomat Alan Wong, Sarah Zheng and Bloomberg – Fortune: 2 March 2024

The top United States diplomat in Hong Kong sounded the alarm over China's crackdown on freedoms that are diminishing the city's appeal as a global finance hub.

https://fortune.com/asia/2024/03/02/hong-kong-internet-censorship-growing-says-us-diplomat/

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(Turkey) Tech companies asked to resist internet censorship ahead of Turkish elections

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(Global) Government Internet Shutdowns Have Cost \$52.8 Billion Since 2019

https://www.top10vpn.com/research/cost-of-internet-shutdowns/

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US Official Warns Of China's Growing Offensive Cyber Power – Analysis Rajeswari Pillai Rajagopalan – EurAsia Review: 1 March 2024

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https://www.eurasiareview.com/01032024-us-official-warns-of-chinas-growing-offensive-cyber-power-analysis/

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(North Korea) Korea's Path to Digital Leadership: How Seoul Can Lead on Standards and Standardization

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Canada's anti-money laundering agency offline after cyberattack *Bill Toulas – Beleeping Computer: 6 March 2024*

The Financial Transactions and Reports Analysis Centre said a cyber incident forced it to take its corporate systems offline as a precaution.

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U.N. report: North Korea financing weapons program with cybercrime

United States Strategic Command – Indo-Pacific Defense Forum: 3 March 2024

Investigators say that Pyongyang has stolen billions of dollars in cyberattacks to fund weapons of mass destruction.

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Critical Infrastructure Systems Are Vulnerable to a New Kind of Cyberattack Joshua Stewart – Georgia Tech: 29 February 2024

Engineers and computer scientists show how bad actors can exploit browser-based control systems in industrial facilities with difficult-to-detect malware.

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PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

Iran's Narco-Terrorist Network: How Iran, Hezbollah, Hamas and Other Proxies Use Narcotics to Fund Their War Against the West.

Pierre James – Homeland Security Today: 1 March 2024

When Jordan launched airstrikes against farms and rural buildings across its border with Syria, the targets were Iranian drug smugglers.

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Security Council holds first open briefing on counter-terrorism efforts in South-East Europe

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The Gaza Dilemma: Israel's Complex Road to Victory Amidst Calls for Ceasefire Seth J. Frantzman – The National Interest: 4 March 2024

Refugees in Gaza, Hezbollah's looming presence in the north and Hamas's reckless defense pose difficult questions for Israel.

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Has Lebanon's Hezbollah been strengthened or weakened by the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza?

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Gaza cease-fire talks fail to achieve a breakthrough with Ramadan just days away, Egypt says

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Hostage crisis poses dilemma for Israel and offers a path to victory for Hamas

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A UN envoy says there are 'reasonable grounds' to believe Hamas committed sexual violence on Oct. 7

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Palestinian factions seek unity at Moscow meeting as Russia vies for greater role in Gaza war

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Ukraine's strategic goal in 2024 is to make Russia's war felt in Moscow John Psaropoulos – Al Jazeera: 1 March 2024

Ukraine is doubling down on remote warfare to smash Russian President Vladimir Putin's power base and ability to fight.

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