

THE MARSHALL CENTER

# transnational weekly



A CURRENT AWARENESS SERVICE FROM THE MARSHALL CENTER

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## COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

### CORRUPTION

#### **Micronesia leader accuses China of bribery, threats in Taiwan bid**

*Al Jazeera: 10 March 2022*

The outgoing president of the tiny Pacific island nation accuses Beijing of direct threats against his personal safety and open bribery of politicians to block his country from establishing diplomatic relations with Taiwan.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/3/10/micronesia-leader-accuses-china-of-bribery-threats-in-taiwan-bid>

#### **Indonesia: the buck stops with Sri Mulyani**

*Erin Cook – The Interpreter: 9 March 2022*

Sul Mulyani Indrawati, now in her second stint as Indonesia's finance minister, has made a reputation as a fierce opponent of corruption and government mismanagement. While her reforms have boosted foreign investment and job creation, they have made enemies among the nation's entrenched powers.

<https://www.lowyinstitute.org/the-interpreter/indonesia-buck-stops-sri-mulyani>

*For more on this theme:*

#### **\$27 billion tax scandal at finance ministry tarnishes Indonesia's anti-graft push**

<https://www.straitstimes.com/asia/se-asia/27-billion-tax-scandal-at-finance-ministry-tarnishes-indonesia-s-anti-graft-push>

#### **Muhyiddin Yassin: Ex-Malaysia PM charged with corruption over Covid spending**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-64911538>

#### **Head of global trade union body sacked after donation investigation**

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/mar/12/luca-visentini-ituc-trade-union-body-sacked-investigation>

#### **Rio Tinto Mining Company Pays \$15 Million to Settle US Bribery Accusations**

<https://www.occpr.org/en/daily/17407-rio-tinto-mining-company-pays-15-million-to-settle-us-bribery-accusations>

#### **Ex-Fox exec convicted of paying tens of millions of dollars in FIFA corruption scandal**

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/hernan-lopez-fox-convicted-carlos-martinez-acquitted-fifa/?intcid=CNM-00-10abd1h>

#### **Spanish government to side against Barcelona over payments**

<https://apnews.com/article/barcelona-corruption-referees-payments-253a55b64ebc61ab7ee393cdb758a171>

#### **CBI launches inquiry at 5 state branches of Red Cross for corruption, financial irregularities**

<https://www.livemint.com/news/india/cbi-launches-inquiry-at-5-state-branches-of-red-cross-for-corruption-financial-irregularities-11678714371157.html>

#### **New York casino contracts are 'absolute petri dish for corruption'**

<https://www.politico.com/news/2023/03/12/new-york-casino-corruption-00086415>

#### **Libyan PM Implicated in a Conflict of Interest**

<https://www.occpr.org/en/daily/17412-libyan-pm-implicated-in-a-conflict-of-interest>

## DRUG TRAFFICKING

### **Murderous Mexican Drug Cartels Are Thriving On Elon Musk's Twitter**

*Pranav Dixit – BuzzFeed News: 10 March 2023*

Mexican drug cartels are using Twitter accounts, reinstated since Elon Musk bought the social media platform last year, to recruit new members, promote their products and lifestyle, and threaten rival gangs.

<https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/pranavdixit/mexican-drug-cartels-twitter-elon-musk-report>

### **How a Montenegrin Gang Used Open-Source Intelligence to Kill**

*Stevan Dojčinović – Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project: 9 March 2023*

A Montenegrin organized crime gang used open-source intelligence-gathering techniques to track down and murder a rival gang boss.

<https://www.occrp.org/en/balkan-cocaine-wars/how-a-montenegrin-gang-used-open-source-intelligence-to-kill>

*For more on this theme:*

### **Argentina launches drug gang offensive after violence rocks farm hub city**

<https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/argentina-launches-drug-gang-offensive-after-violence-rocks-farm-hub-city-2023-03-08/>

### **Gods and Gangs: The Struggle Against Cartels**

<https://europeanconservative.com/articles/commentary/gods-and-gangsthe-struggle-against-cartels/>

### **Seychelles: The island paradise held prisoner by heroin**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-64785171>

### **Cocaine was trafficked to Paris on flights from Mexico; 11 arrested**

<https://www.theyucatantimes.com/2023/03/cocaine-was-trafficked-to-paris-on-flights-from-mexico-11-arrested/>

### **Asylum-seeker hotels for children 'a supermarket for gangs'**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-64866523>

### **Mexico made criminal justice reforms in 2008 – they haven't done much to reduce crime**

<https://www.mysanantonio.com/news/article/mexico-made-criminal-justice-reforms-in-2008-17836927.php>

### **Colombian gangs flooding Ireland with liquid cocaine hidden in shampoo bottles**

<https://www.irishmirror.ie/news/irish-news/crime/colombian-gangs-flooding-ireland-liquid-29437237#>

### **EXCLUSIVE: Inside the 'Dior' cocaine gang where dealers sold bricks of the drug to Australia's rich and famous — as kingpins are finally brought to justice and intimate details of how their plot unraveled are revealed**

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-11838537/Inside-designer-drug-gang-sold-Dior-plated-bricks-cocaine-Sydneys-wealthy.html>

### **More than 200 arrests made in week-long crackdown on county lines drug gangs**

<https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/met-british-transport-police-metropolitan-police-rescue-croydon-b1065879.html>

## TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

### **SE Asia's COVID legacy is less wildlife trade, but more hunting, study finds**

*Spoorthy Raman – Mongabay: 7 March 2023*

The risks of eating wild meat increased because of COVID-19, causing a significant decrease in the consumption of wildlife in Southeast Asia and the United States. However, hunting of wild game in many protected areas increased as a means of providing food and supplementing income for those who lost jobs to the pandemic.

<https://news.mongabay.com/2023/03/se-asias-covid-legacy-is-less-wildlife-trade-but-more-hunting-study-finds/>

### **Beyond the Surface: Understanding Link between IUU fishing and human trafficking in Guinea's marine ecosystem**

*Gbemisola Esho – Vanguard: 12 March 2023*

Illegal fishing has depleted fish stocks along the Gulf of Guinea, hurting local fishermen and threatening the marine ecosystem. In this region, illegal fishing has also been linked to forced labor and human trafficking.

<https://www.vanguardngr.com/2023/03/beyond-the-surface-understanding-link-between-iuu-fishing-and-human-trafficking-in-guineas-marine-ecosystem/>

*For more on this theme:*

### **Can the Growing Trans-Pacific Wildlife Trade Be Stopped?**

<https://www.newsecuritybeat.org/2023/03/growing-trans-pacific-wildlife-trade-stopped/>

### **US 'Committed' to Assist Latin American East Pacific Countries Against Illegal Fishing**

<https://dialogo-americas.com/articles/us-committed-to-assist-latin-american-east-pacific-countries-against-illegal-fishing/#.ZA-VtnbMKUk>

### **Giving a voice in court to the 'victim' species suffering at the hands of the illegal wildlife trade**

<https://eia-international.org/blog/giving-a-voice-in-court-to-the-victim-species-suffering-at-the-hands-of-the-illegal-wildlife-trade/>

### **Brazil Targets Illegal Gold Miners With Force and Legislation**

<https://insightcrime.org/news/brazil-targets-illegal-gold-miners-with-force-and-legislation/>

### **Der Spiegel: Romania's ancient forests under siege by illegal loggers backed by Austrian companies**

<https://www.romania-insider.com/der-spiegel-romania-ancient-forests-illegal-loggers-2023>

### **Illegal logging in Laos hinders government's forestation goals**

<https://www.rfa.org/english/news/laos/forestation-goals-03062023110456.html>

### **Following the money to combat the illegal wildlife trade in Southern Africa**

<https://mg.co.za/opinion/2023-03-13-%E2%80%8B%E2%80%8Bfollowing-the-money-to-combat-the-illegal-wildlife-trade-in-southern-africa/>

### **Brazil and the United States partner to combat illegal fishing as USCGC Stone arrives in Rio de Janeiro**

<https://seapowermagazine.org/brazil-and-the-united-states-partner-to-combat-illegal-fishing-as-uscg-stone-arrives-in-rio-de-janeiro/>

### **More than 50 cheetahs rescued from illegal trade find new home**

<https://www.thenationalnews.com/uae/2023/03/12/more-than-50-cheetahs-rescued-from-illegal-trade-find-new-home/>

## PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

### INTERNET GOVERNANCE

#### **Russia's War Against Ukraine is Catalyzing Internet Fragmentation**

*Christoph Meinel and David Hageböling – Council on Foreign Relations: 13 March 2023*

Moscow has blocked access to many Western sites in an effort to limit Russians' access to outside information about the war and has cut off its government networks from the web. While Russia isn't yet disconnected from the West, the war could result in a "fundamental fragmentation of global digital connectivity."

<https://www.cfr.org/blog/russias-war-against-ukraine-catalyzing-internet-fragmentation>

*For more on this theme:*

#### **(U.S.) A Dose of Reality at State of the Net**

<https://techpolicy.press/a-dose-of-reality-at-state-of-the-net/>

#### **(Global) It May be Time to Reinforce Universal Access to the Internet as a Human Right, Not Just a Privilege, High Commissioner tells Human Rights Council**

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/news/2023/03/it-may-be-time-reinforce-universal-access-internet-human-right-not-just-privilege-high>

#### **(Austria) Edtstadler Wants to Help Implement Project for a Safer Internet with the IGF**

<https://www.vindobona.org/article/edtstadler-and-state-secretary-tursky-want-to-help-implement-project-for-a-safer-internet-with-the-igf>

#### **(U.K., China) UK refreshes national security plan to stop more of China's secret-stealing cyber-tricks**

[https://www.theregister.com/2023/03/14/uk\\_integrated\\_review\\_refresh/](https://www.theregister.com/2023/03/14/uk_integrated_review_refresh/)

### INTERNET FREEDOM

#### **How, and Why, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan Shut Down the Internet**

*Rustam Muhamedov and Dana Buralkiyeva – The Diplomat: 9 March 2023*

Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan cut off access to the internet in 2022 to quell public protests, placing both countries, along with Central Asian neighbor Uzbekistan, in the Top 10 countries for self-inflicted economic losses from limiting internet access. This was more damaging for more economically advanced Kazakhstan, which has been working to attract international investment.

<https://thediplomat.com/2023/03/how-and-why-kazakhstan-and-turkmenistan-shut-down-the-internet/>

*For more on this theme:*

#### **(Opinion): (Europe) Regulating political advertising in Europe threatens freedom of expression**

<https://www.indexoncensorship.org/2023/03/regulating-political-advertising-in-europe-threatens-freedom-of-expression/>

#### **(Burma) Myanmar: Social media companies must stand up to junta's online terror campaign say UN experts**

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2023/03/myanmar-social-media-companies-must-stand-juntas-online-terror-campaign-say>

### **(Russia) Russia cracks down on VPNs as restrictions on internet freedoms continue to increase**

<https://www.intellinews.com/russia-cracks-down-on-vpns-as-restrictions-on-internet-freedoms-continue-to-increase-272120/>

### **(Global) Why Does the Global Spyware Industry Continue to Thrive? Trends, Explanations, and Responses**

<https://carnegieendowment.org/2023/03/14/why-does-global-spyware-industry-continue-to-thrive-trends-explanations-and-responses-pub-89229>

## **CYBER STRATEGY AND STATECRAFT**

### **The Liberal Cyber Order**

*Joshua Rovner – War on the Rocks: 13 March 2023*

U.S. cyber strategy embraces the liberal values it is meant to defend as a means to defeat Russian and Chinese efforts to replace the current liberal-norms-based system with one of “cyber sovereignty,” which the authoritarian governments use as justification for oppression and political manipulation.

<https://warontherocks.com/2023/03/the-liberal-cyber-order/>

*For more on this theme:*

### **(Canada) Trudeau gov ‘just shy of the finish line’ in regulating the internet**

[https://www.westernstandard.news/news/trudeau-gov-just-shy-of-the-finish-line-in-regulating-the-internet/article\\_e778e832-be81-11ed-b4fe-13166eda7513.html](https://www.westernstandard.news/news/trudeau-gov-just-shy-of-the-finish-line-in-regulating-the-internet/article_e778e832-be81-11ed-b4fe-13166eda7513.html)

### **(India) Digital India Bill: Govt may remove safe harbour for internet platforms in upcoming law**

<https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/business/announcements/digital-india-bill-govt-mulls-to-remove-safe-harbor-for-internet-platforms-in-upcoming-law-10223901.html>

### **(U.S., Global) HSToday Interview: The UNHACKABLE INTERNET with Thomas Vartanian**

<https://www.hstoday.us/subject-matter-areas/cybersecurity/hstoday-interview-unhackable-internet-with-thomas-vartanian/>

### **(Global) Terrorists Love New Technologies. What Will They Do With AI? | Opinion**

<https://www.newsweek.com/terrorists-love-new-technologies-what-will-they-do-ai-opinion-1787482>

## **CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING**

### **U.S. government provides cyber budget specifics**

*Tim Starks – The Washington Post: 14 March 2023*

The Biden administration’s new budget request for cybersecurity would boost government civilian cyber budgets by 13% while military ones would increase 20%. The money is targeted for numerous programs to improve security and adopt new technologies.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2023/03/14/us-government-provides-cyber-budget-specifics/>

*For more on this theme:*

**(U.S., Global) Satellite internet can fill broadband gaps**

<https://gcn.com/cloud-infrastructure/2023/03/satellite-internet-can-fill-broadband-gaps/383906/>

**(Global) Exploring The Ins And Outs Of The Generative AI Boom**

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/danielnewman/2023/03/14/exploring-the-ins-and-outs-of-the-generative-ai-boom/?sh=363636692863>

**(U.S., Global) 5G, security risks, and a way forward**

<https://thehill.com/opinion/technology/3895399-5g-security-risks-and-a-way-forward/>

**(Philippines) E-Governance bill gets House 3rd reading okay**

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2023/03/07/e-governance-bill-gets-house-3rd-reading-okay/>

## CYBERATTACKS

**Talos uncovers espionage campaigns targeting CIS countries, embassies and EU health care agency**

*Asheer Malhotra and Vitor Ventura – Talos: 14 March 2023*

A newly identified “threat actor” has been running successful cyber-espionage campaigns against European and Central Asian governments, critical infrastructure and at least two international organizations.

<https://blog.talosintelligence.com/yorotrooper-espionage-campaign-cis-turkey-europe/>

*For more on this theme:*

**(Estonia, Russia) Estonian official says parliamentary elections were targeted by cyberattacks**

<https://therecord.media/estonia-cyberattack-parliamentary-elections>

**(France, Russia) France identifies Russia-linked hackers in large cyberattack**

<https://www.politico.eu/article/france-cyber-agency-russia-attack-security-anssi/>

**(Greenland) Growing focus on Arctic puts Greenland at higher risk of cyber attacks: assessment**

<https://www.rcinet.ca/eye-on-the-arctic/2023/03/14/growing-focus-on-arctic-puts-greenland-at-higher-risk-of-cyber-attacks-assessment/>

**(Global, Ukraine, Russia) What can security teams learn from a year of cyber warfare?**

<https://www.computerweekly.com/feature/What-can-security-teams-learn-from-a-year-of-cyber-warfare>

## CYBERCRIME

**Ransomware Attacks Have Entered a ‘Heinous’ New Phase**

*Lily Hay Newman – Wired: 13 March 2023*

Ransomware attackers are resorting to more desperate – and despicable – measures as victims increasingly refuse to pay. These more aggressive tactics may indicate that efforts to combat ransomware are working.

<https://www.wired.com/story/ransomware-tactics-cancer-photos-student-records/>

*For more on this theme:*

**(U.S., Global) Ransomware Group Claims Hack of Amazon's Ring**

<https://www.vice.com/en/article/qjvd9q/ransomware-group-claims-hack-of-amazons-ring>

**(U.K., Global) Investment Fraud is Now Biggest Cybercrime Earner**

<https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/news/investment-fraud-biggest/>

**(U.S.) Cybercrime Losses Exceeded \$10 Billion in 2022: FBI**

<https://www.securityweek.com/cybercrime-losses-exceeded-10-billion-in-2022-fbi/>

**(U.S., China, India) Interisle reports that malware hosting activity in 2022 was most intense in China, India and United States**

[https://www.einnews.com/pr\\_news/621395330/interisle-reports-that-malware-hosting-activity-in-2022-was-most-intense-in-china-india-and-united-states](https://www.einnews.com/pr_news/621395330/interisle-reports-that-malware-hosting-activity-in-2022-was-most-intense-in-china-india-and-united-states)

## PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

### ISIS AND FOREIGN FIGHTERS

#### **Unesco ambassador calls for 'visionary leadership' to revive spirit of Mosul**

*Ismaeel Naar – The National: 10 March 2023*

Restoring Mosul's historic buildings, damaged during the battle against the Islamic State group, and maintaining others that escaped destruction are priorities of UNESCO in the northern Iraqi city.

<https://www.thenationalnews.com/mena/2023/03/10/unesco-official-calls-for-visionary-leadership-to-revive-spirit-of-mosul/>

#### **Syria centre seeks to rehabilitate Daesh-scarred foreign children**

*AFP – The Jordan Times: 11 March 2023*

The heavily guarded Orkesh rehabilitation center is the first facility seeking to rehabilitate foreign boys in the Kurdish-administered northeast, where prisons and camps are packed with thousands of Islamic State group relatives from more than 60 countries.

<http://jordantimes.com/news/region/syria%20centre-seeks-rehabilitate-daesh-scarred-foreign-children>

*For more on this theme:*

#### **Iraqi general says there are only 500 ISIS fighters left in Iraq**

<https://www.thenationalnews.com/world/2023/03/13/iraqi-general-says-there-are-only-500-isis-fighters-left-in-iraq/>

#### **Foreign Terrorist Fighters Knowledge Hub**

<https://www.icct.nl/project/foreign-terrorist-fighters-knowledge-hub>

#### **Wagner mercenaries remain in Libya**

<https://www.defenceweb.co.za/joint/diplomacy-a-peace/wagner-mercenaries-remain-in-libya/>

#### **Government anti-ISIS comms unit signs data-analytics deal for 'audience insights'**

<https://www.publictechnology.net/articles/news/government-anti-isis-comms-unit-signs-data-analytics-deal-%E2%80%98audience-insights%E2%80%99>

#### **22 ISIS terrorists including prominent leaders killed in Anbar**

<https://www.iraqnews.com/iraq/22-isis-terrorists-including-prominent-leaders-killed-in-anbar/>

#### **ISIL claims attack targeting journalists in Afghanistan**

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/3/12/is-claims-attack-targeting-afghan-journalists-in-mazar-i-sharif>

#### **US general warns of ISIS 'army in detention' in Syria camps**

<https://www.thenationalnews.com/mena/syria/2023/03/12/us-general-warns-of-isis-army-in-detention-in-syria-camps/>

#### **RAF drone strike hits 'leading' ISIS terrorist in Syria**

<https://www.thenationalnews.com/world/uk-news/2023/03/13/raf-drone-strike-hits-leading-isis-terrorist-in-syria/>

## TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

### **Global Terrorism Index 2023**

*Institute for Economics and Peace: 14 March 2023*

The Global Terrorism Index reveals attacks are more deadly with 26% more people dying in each incident – the first rise in lethality in five years.

<https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/terrorist-attacks-more-deadly-despite-decline-in-the-west-301770135.html>

Read the full report:

<https://www.economicsandpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/GTI-2023-web.pdf>

### **Taking Stock of the Surge in Militant Islamist Violence in Africa**

*Joseph Siegle and Wendy Williams – Africa Center for Strategic Studies: 7 March 2023*

The spike in militant Islamist group violence in Africa has been marked by a 68% increase in fatalities involving civilians, highlighting the need for more population-centric stabilization strategies.

<https://africacenter.org/spotlight/taking-stock-surge-militant-islamist-violence-africa/>

### **Five Misconceptions of Non-Violent Extremism in Terrorism Studies**

*Dr. William Allchorn and Dr. Elisa Orofino – European Eye on Radicalization: 13 March 2023*

The authors outline what they believe are five key misconceptions that are responsible for stifling the scholarly and public debate over nonviolent extremism.

<https://eeradicalization.com/five-misconceptions-of-non-violent-extremism-in-terrorism-studies/>

*For more on this theme:*

### **It's time to bring in climate change when talking about terrorism**

<https://www.thenationalnews.com/opinion/editorial/2023/03/15/its-time-to-factor-in-climate-change-when-talking-about-terrorism/>

### **Spain will promote measures in the European Union to improve care for foreign victims of terrorism**

[https://www.lamoncloa.gob.es/lang/en/gobierno/news/Paginas/2023/20230310\\_terrorism-victims.aspx](https://www.lamoncloa.gob.es/lang/en/gobierno/news/Paginas/2023/20230310_terrorism-victims.aspx)

### **Tendency of categorisation of terrorism based on motivations behind terrorist acts is 'dangerous': India**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/tendency-of-categorisation-of-terrorism-based-on-motivations-behind-terrorist-acts-is-dangerous-india/articleshow/98533882.cms>

### **Iran to purchase Sukhoi Su-35 fighter jets from Russia**

<https://www.israelnationalnews.com/news/368583>

### **Terrorism: IPOB, ISWAP attacks surge as Boko Haram declines**

<https://www.icirnigeria.org/terrorism-ipob-iswap-attacks-surge-as-boko-haram-declines/>

### **The Kerala connect to terror in Kashmir is out in open again: It is hardly surprising**

<https://www.oneindia.com/india/the-kerala-connect-to-terror-in-kashmir-is-out-in-open-again-it-is-hardly-surprising-3534812.html>

## COUNTERING TERRORISM

### **Understanding EU counter-terrorism policy**

*Piotr Bąkowski – European Parliamentary Research Service: 10 March 2023*

Faced with a persistent terrorist threat, the European Union is playing an increasingly ambitious role in counterterrorism.

[https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2023/739395/EPRS\\_BRI\(2023\)739395\\_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2023/739395/EPRS_BRI(2023)739395_EN.pdf)

### **Dual-use regulation: Managing hate and terrorism online before and after Section 230 reform**

*Brian Fishman – Brookings Institution: 14 March 2023*

Policymakers intent on taming internet platforms must not inadvertently empower the real dangerous actors – terrorists, child predators, hate groups – who will abuse any technology and any legal recourse created by adjustments to Section 230.

<https://www.brookings.edu/research/dual-use-regulation-managing-hate-and-terrorism-online-before-and-after-section-230-reform/>

### **UN expert warns of alarming misuse of technologies in global fight against terrorism**

*Peter Kenny – Andalou Agency: 14 March 2023*

States and private actors are using counterterrorism and security rhetoric to justify the accelerating deployment of new high-risk surveillance technologies without regulation and at an enormous cost to human rights, a U.N. expert said.

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/world/un-expert-warns-of-alarming-misuse-of-technologies-in-global-fight-against-terrorism/2845555>

*For more on this theme:*

#### **Fighting terrorism**

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1741753>

#### **Media specialists discuss strategic cooperation to counter terrorism**

<https://www.kuwaittimes.com/media-specialists-discuss-strategic-cooperation-to-counter-terrorism/>

#### **Malaysia's Counter-Terrorism Strength Among World's Best – Analysis**

<https://www.eurasiareview.com/10032023-malysias-counter-terrorism-strength-among-worlds-best-analysis/>

#### **Pakistani counter-terrorism officers say they killed mastermind of attack on police headquarters**

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/asia-pacific/pakistani-counter-terrorism-officers-say-they-killed-mastermind-of-attack-on-police-headquarters/2844057>

#### **France provides VAB armoured vehicles to Benin**

<https://www.defencenews.co.za/featured/france-provides-vab-armoured-vehicles-to-benin/>

#### **As Russia looms, US seeks influence in West Africa's fight against Islamists**

<https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/russia-looms-us-seeks-influence-west-africas-fight-against-islamists-2023-03-15/>

### **Arab Permanent Group of Experts Discusses Media Strategy to Combat Terrorism**

<https://english.aawsat.com/home/article/4209311/arab-permanent-group-experts-discusses-media-strategy-combat-terrorism>

### **US pledges to support capacity-building initiatives - To counter terrorism in Africa**

<https://www.graphic.com.gh/news/general-news/us-pledges-to-support-capacity-building-initiatives-to-counter-terrorism-in-africa.html>

### **International joint action urged to prevent terrorism**

<https://www.bna.bh/en/news?cms=q8FmFJgiscL2fwlzON1%2bDmmqyWih30UhPggK74j%2bpmA%3d>

## **RUSSIA/UKRAINE**

### **Why would Russia use hypersonic missile to strike Ukraine?**

*The Associated Press: 10 March 2023*

Military analysts discuss why the number of Kinzhal hypersonic missiles used in a recent barrage was significantly higher compared with previous strikes, which have typically involved no more than a few such weapons.

<https://apnews.com/article/ukraine-russia-kinzhal-hypersonic-missiles-e0dc1e20e9dd53528c5381ca5fdee66a>

### **Moving the Goalposts: Russia's Evolving War Aims in Ukraine (Part Two)**

*Vladimir Socor – Eurasia Daily Monitor: 13 March 2023*

Ukraine's robust defense has compelled Russia to downplay its initial objectives so it can lure Kyiv and its Western partners into negotiating from positions of weakness. Meanwhile, Russia focuses on devastating Ukraine's economy and demography by resorting to various horizontal forms of escalation.

<https://jamestown.org/program/moving-the-goalposts-russias-evolving-war-aims-in-ukraine-part-two/>

### **Ukraine hasn't ousted all its pro-Russia politicians — for good reason**

*Andrew D'Anieri – The Hill: 15 March 2023*

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's administration has avoided the temptation to unilaterally strip pro-Russia lawmakers of their mandates. It would have been popular, though unconstitutional, to oust those politicians by presidential decree.

<https://thehill.com/opinion/international/3894721-ukraine-hasnt-ousted-all-its-pro-russia-politicians-for-good-reason/>

*For more on this theme:*

### **Poland to be 1st NATO member to give Ukraine fighter jets**

<https://apnews.com/article/ukraine-poland-russia-war-jets-migs-6d843ccbd50fef5f96091a5bff8f3e01>

### **Explainer: Bakhmut: Why Russia and Ukraine are battling so hard for one small city**

<https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/bakhmut-why-russia-ukraine-are-battling-so-hard-one-small-city-2023-03-14/>

### **UN-backed inquiry accuses Russia of war crimes in Ukraine**

<https://apnews.com/article/ukraine-russia-war-crimes-un-human-rights-c52676801b588a95a8410bc71b62d568>

### **UK boosts defense spending in response to Russia and China**

<https://apnews.com/article/uk-britain-china-aucus-submarines-964717c21be1a5f765d9139b5cb0f3a0>

### **Downing of US drone in Russian jet encounter prompts counter claims of violations in the sky – an international law expert explores the arguments**

<https://theconversation.com/downing-of-us-drone-in-russian-jet-encounter-prompts-counter-claims-of-violations-in-the-sky-an-international-law-expert-explores-the-arguments-201857>

### **Wagner’s convicts tell of horrors of Ukraine war and loyalty to their leader**

<https://www.reuters.com/investigates/special-report/ukraine-crisis-russia-wagner/>

### **Sweden’s PM: Finland likely to join NATO without us**

<https://www.politico.eu/article/finland-join-nato-without-sweden-ulf-kristersson/>

### **EU nears deal to restock Ukraine’s diminishing ammo supplies**

<https://www.politico.eu/article/ukraine-war-european-union-ammunition-supplies-deal/>

### **Lithuania declares Russia’s Wagner a terrorist organization**

<https://euromaidanpress.com/2023/03/14/lithuania-declares-russias-wagner-a-terrorist-organization/>

### **How War Changed the Perception of Ukraine’s Allies**

<https://www.eurointegration.com.ua/eng/news/2023/03/14/7157950/>

### **Estonian MEP: If Ukraine falls, we’ll be next**

[https://www.baltictimes.com/estonian\\_mep\\_\\_if\\_ukraine\\_falls\\_\\_we\\_ll\\_be\\_next/](https://www.baltictimes.com/estonian_mep__if_ukraine_falls__we_ll_be_next/)

### **Logistical Lessons From Ukraine — and What It Means for Taiwan**

<https://www.lawfareblog.com/logistical-lessons-ukraine%E2%80%94and-what-it-means-taiwan>

### **Ukrainian military holds large-scale war exercises in northern Ukraine – Lieutenant General Nayev**

<https://english.nv.ua/nation/ukrainian-military-holds-large-scale-war-exercises-in-northern-ukraine-50310664.html>

### **Ukraine exported almost 20 million tons of corn**

<https://ukragroconsult.com/en/news/ukraine-exported-almost-20-million-tons-of-corn/>

### **Ukraine’s economy shrank by 29.2% last year**

<https://www.ukrinform.net/rubric-economy/3682333-ukraines-economy-shrank-by-292-last-year.html>

### **Serbia fails to align with EU sanctions on Belarus, updated terrorism list**

<https://n1info.rs/english/news/serbia-fails-to-align-with-eu-sanctions-on-belarus-updated-terrorism-list/>

### **Why a new centre for civic engagement in Ukraine could help counter Russia’s invasion**

<https://theconversation.com/why-a-new-centre-for-civic-engagement-in-ukraine-could-help-counter-russias-invasion-201510>

### **‘They don’t respect us’: Backlash in Bali as Russians flee war**

<https://www.aljazeera.com/economy/2023/3/15/they-dont-respect-us-russians-face-backlash-in-bali>