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COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

London police chided again for corruption, crime links
Kylie Maclellan – Reuters: 22 March 2022
London police received yet another rebuke for internal corruption and links to crime in a damning report born out of their flawed investigation of a 1987 murder.

Anti-corruption Guatemalan judge resigns and flees to U.S.
The Associated Press: 21 March 2022
A Guatemalan judge considered key in fighting corruption announced her resignation and said she is leaving the Central American country.
https://apnews.com/article/caribbean-central-america-guatemala-guatemala-city-alejandro-giammat-tel-9bf70801e9f3390e148083f1a862da01

For more on this theme:
Suez Canal Authority heeds corruption criticism finally
https://splash247.com/suez-canal-authority-heeds-corruption-criticism-finally/

Uganda: Government Unveils E-Land Information Portal to Fight Corruption
https://allafrica.com/stories/202203100368.html

Does Tasmania need an anti-corruption body with more teeth? Depends on who you listen to

What Kind of Person Can Resist Corruption?
https://www.psychologytoday.com/ca/blog/be-in-the-know/202203/what-kind-person-can-resist-corruption

Artificial intelligence and corporate social responsibility can strengthen anti-corruption efforts

How Lafarge's mining, corruption cause untold hardship to Mfamosing community (Part 3)

Zambia arrests leader of main opposition party for alleged corruption

Corruption affects happiness of 43.2% Indians, study finds
**DRUG TRAFFICKING**

**US Sanctions Up Ante in Hunt for Guatemala’s Huistas**  
*Alex Papadovassilakis – InSight Crime: 23 March 2022*

The United States has taken major action against one of Guatemala’s most enduring drug clans — the “Huistas” — whose leaders have spent years evading authorities from both countries.


**How the Netherlands Became a Global Cocaine Hub**  
*Jessica Loudis – The Nation: 23 March 2022*

The surge in trafficking through the Port of Rotterdam has coincided with spectacular violence.

https://www.thenation.com/article/society/cocaine-trafficking-netherlands/

*For more on this theme:*

**Is Bitcoin A Tool For Criminals? Drug Cartels Prefer Banks**  
https://bitcoinist.com/is-bitcoin-a-tool-for-criminals-drug-cartels-prefer-banks/

**These Afghans Are Using a Giant Slingshot to Shoot Drugs Across the Border**  

**Territories of Extreme Violence in Ecuador’s War on Drugs**  
https://nacla.org/ecuador-drug-war-prisons

**Endless Chemical Innovations Are Killing Thousands of Americans**  

**The New Brand of Meth That’s Fueling L.A.’s Homelessness Crisis**  

**Belgium authorities are intercepting cocaine, but most makes it into Europe anyway**  
https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/belgium-police-are-trying-to-intercept-cocaine-but-most-of-it-makes-it-into-europe-anyway

**Colombia’s Prison Corruption Exposed as Top Trafficker Strolls Out**  

**Iraq’s Corruption and Rule of Law Deficits Nourish a Worsening Drug Problem**  

**Mexican Drug War Fast Facts**  

**Morocco Calls For Shared Responsibility, Awareness on Drug Trafficking**  
https://www.moroccoworldnews.com/2022/03/347744/morocco-calls-for-shared-responsibility-awareness-on-drug-trafficking

**Australian technology to disrupt illegal drug trade into the United States**  
TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

Iconic African game to be focus at world wildlife conference

The standing committee meeting of the United Nations Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species said iconic African plants and animals such as elephants, big cats and rosewood trees will be central to discussions of the World Wildlife Conference slated for Panama this year.

https://apnews.com/article/climate-business-health-france-africa-6f0747c565a6bc4d4e45bbd-c092a736d

Improving timber supply chains will help unlock sustainable production and consumption this International Day of Forests
Denis Mahonghol – TRAFFIC: 21 March 2022

It’s vital to tackle deforestation and its impacts on climate and biodiversity loss, ensuring timber supply-chain legality.


For more on this theme:

Peru Deals Blow to Illegal Mining

Illegal rare earth mining harms environment in Myanmar’s Kachin state

Gold rush in Ecuador’s Amazon region threatens 1,500 communities

Sustainable catch: navigating global fisheries crime

New Report: Tackling Challenges of Global Seafood Traceability Programs

Women rangers are taking on armed gangs in Africa’s wildlife poaching hotspots

Peru Jails Shark Fin Traffickers for the First Time
https://dialogo-americas.com/articles/peru-jails-shark-fin-traffickers-for-the-first-time/

Can technology save our forests?
https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/article/paid-content-can-technology-save-our-forests

Brazil’s ecosystem of crime in the Amazon (commentary)
INTERNET GOVERNANCE

Russia is risking the creation of a “splinternet” — and it could be irreversible
James Ball – MIT Technology Review: 17 March 2022
If Russia disconnects from — or is booted from — the internet’s governing bodies, the internet may never be the same again.
https://www.technologyreview.com/2022/03/17/1047352/russia-splinternet-risk/

For more on this theme:
(Global) Russia is nearly isolated online. What does that mean for the internet’s future?
(Russia) Russia to create its own security certificate authority, alarming experts
https://www.cyberscoop.com/russia-tls-security-certificate-authority/
(Global) The Use of Blockchain in ESG

INTERNET FREEDOM

China’s information dark age could be Russia’s future
Russia and China have the tendency to learn the worst from each other: tyrants, famines, purges and now internet censorship.

For more on this theme:
(China) China’s internet watchdog pushes for deeper engagement with internet platforms in 2022 to clean, control online content
(Russia) Russia’s economy already lost R12.8 billion this year because the government keeps shutting down the internet
(Russia, China) Interview: Will The Russian Internet Resemble China’s ‘Great Firewall’?
CYBER STATECRAFT AND CAPACITY BUILDING

National Cyber Strategy will enhance UK’s cyber power status
Paddy Francis – Computer Weekly: 18 March 2022

The United Kingdom punches above its weight when it comes to wielding cyber power around the world, but challenges to this status are clear. The National Cyber Strategy has a role to play in maintaining and enhancing this position.

https://www.computerweekly.com/opinion/National-Cyber-Strategy-will-enhance-UKs-cyber-power-status

For more on this theme:
(Ukraine, Global) What Ukraine Shows About Cyber Defense and Partnerships

(North Korea, Global) How Big of a Cyber Threat Is North Korea?

(Russia) An Isolated Russia Will Pose New Cyber Threats

CYBERCRIME

New details emerge on prolific Conti-linked cybercrime group
AJ Vicens – Cyberscoop: 17 March 2022

In early September, researchers with Google’s Threat Analysis Group started tracking a financially motivated hacking group exploiting a since-patched Microsoft vulnerability.

https://www.cyberscoop.com/new-details-emerge-on-prolific-conti-linked-cybercrime-group/

For more on this theme:
(U.S.) Lawmakers Push to Reauthorize and Possibly Expand Secret Service’s Cyber Crime Training Hub

(India) Coming soon: Six state-of-the-art cyber crime labs, social media lab to help Mumbai police tackle cyber crime

(Australia) Australia launches federal cybercrime centre as part of national plan

(U.S., Canada) US and Canada Collaborate to Tackle Cybercrime
CYBERATTACKS, THREATS AND VULNERABILITIES

Italy’s state railway may have been target of cyber attack
Reuters: 23 March 2022

Italian railway company Ferrovie dello Stato Italiane said it temporarily halted some ticket sale services because it feared they had been targeted by a cyberattack.


For more on this theme:
(Ukraine) Ukraine Satellite Internet Service Hit by Cyber Attack, Intelligence Agencies Investigating

(Russia) Russian government sites facing unprecedented cyber attacks — report

(Israel, Iran) Large-Scale Cyber Attack on Israeli Government Sites Likely By Iranian-Aligned Hackers
https://www.algemeiner.com/2022/03/17/large-scale-cyber-attack-on-israeli-government-sites-likely-by-iranian-aligned-hackers/

CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION

Australia’s cyber laws potentially harmful to security: Critical Infrastructure community
Campbell Kwan – ZDNet: 15 March 2022

Multiple organizations have called for the federal government to clarify how it would install cyberattack management software in critical infrastructure systems.


For more on this theme:
(India) India is assembling an ace team of cyber sleuths to protect its power grids

(Russia, U.S.) Readout of CISA Call with Critical Infrastructure Partners on Potential Russian Cyberattacks Against the United States

(EU, Russia) European Union Officials Call for Stricter Cyber Rules

(Russia, Ukraine) Russian Cyber Attacks Are Struggling to Impact Ukraine’s Networks
PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

ISIS AND FOREIGN FIGHTERS

ISIS has a new leader. It's important to understand their operational capacity.
Onwa Ajjoub – Atlantic Council: 18 March 2022

While discussions about the identity of the new leader and power succession within ISIS offer valuable insight into the terrorist group, the attack on al-Sina’a prison and others reflect its operational capacity and the threat it poses. However, despite their size, these attacks are largely doomed to end in favor of ISIS’ enemies.
https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/menasource/isis-has-a-new-leader-its-important-to-understand-their-operational-capacity-%EF%BF%BC/

Breaking the Walls: The Threat of ISIS Resurgence as Social Media Fuels Fundraising in ISIS Women’s Camps
Mona Thakkar and Anne Speckhard – Homeland Security Today: 22 March 2022

A recent ISIS attack has changed the security dynamics in ISIS’ women’s camps, and crowdfunding efforts have shifted their focus to openly rallying for freeing the prisoners, including men, women and children.

For more on this theme:

The Insurgency of ISIS in Syria
https://carnegieendowment.org/sada/86643

An Expert Explains: Under a new caliph, why Islamic State continues to be a formidable threat

Pakistan Confronts Growing Threat From Islamic State-Khorasan

Child soldiers among latest recruits for Islamic State West Africa Province

Islamic State Fighters in Iraq, Africa Line Up Behind New Leader

Who is the new leader of the Islamic State?

With all eyes turned to Ukraine, what’s ISIS up to?
https://www.wbur.org/hereandnow/2022/03/21/isis-new-leader
TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

Lebanon’s Hezbollah chief denies sending fighters to support Russia in Ukraine

*Reuters: 18 March 2022*

Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah denied reports about sending fighters and experts to fight alongside Russia, Lebanese Al Mayadeen TV reported.


For more on this theme:

**How Afghanistan’s Militant Groups Are Evolving Under Taliban Rule**


**Hezbollah accused of ‘covering up’ crime and ‘protecting criminals’ in Rafik Hariri assassination**

[https://www.arabnews.com/node/2040796/middle-east](https://www.arabnews.com/node/2040796/middle-east)

**New Videos Put Spotlight On Taliban Retribution Killings In Afghanistan**


**Terror Groups in Africa ‘Remain Grave and Growing Threats’ to Americans**


RADICALIZATION

**Nigeria: Ex-Boko Haram fighters face tough path to reintegration**

*Cristina Krippahl – Deutsche Welle: 18 March 2022*

Nigeria is striving to reintegrate former Boko Haram terrorists who have voluntarily surrendered. But in many communities, resentment toward the ex-fighters is still strong.


For more on this theme:

**Radicalization through Media Mobilization in the Indian Periphery**

[https://moderndiplomacy.eu/2022/03/08.radicalization-through-media-mobilization-in-the-indian-periphery](https://moderndiplomacy.eu/2022/03/08.radicalization-through-media-mobilization-in-the-indian-periphery)

**From Victims to Activists: Women’s Engagement and Participation in P/CVE**


**Perspectives | Islamic State in Afghanistan seeks to recruit Uzbeks, Tajiks, Kyrgyz**


**German prosecutors: train attacker had extremist motive**

[https://apnews.com/article/islamic-state-group-europe-hamburg-6713f4afd9a3db4e160d-42d3ae68c038](https://apnews.com/article/islamic-state-group-europe-hamburg-6713f4afd9a3db4e160d-42d3ae68c038)
IRREGULAR WARFARE: CYBER

The world holds its breath for Putin's cyberwar
Maggie Miller – Politico: 23 March 2022
Moscow’s slowness to unleash its cyber might against Ukraine has scrambled long-held assumptions about the future of warfare — even as warnings grow that attacks are imminent.

For more on this theme:
Taiwan Under Siege: Behind China’s Gray Zone Operations
Peter Dutton warns of an ‘unprecedented’ Chinese cyber onslaught and admits war with the communist superpower is possible
Google says China’s state-sponsored hackers are targeting Ukraine
https://www.androidpolice.com/google-says-chinas-state-sponsored-hackers-are-targeting-ukraine/
Cyberattacks Against NATO Countries from Chinese IP Addresses Double
https://www.digit.fyi/cyberattacks-against-nato-chinese-ip-double/
Stopping Russian Cyberattacks at Their Source
https://www.darkreading.com/attacks-breaches/stopping-russian-cyberattacks-at-their-source
Anonymous: How hackers are trying to undermine Putin

RUSSIA/UKRAINE

Ukraine war: why are so many Russian generals being killed?
Jonathan Jackson – The Conversation: 22 March 2022
Corruption may be one answer to why generals are being killed. Like all aspects of Russian life, the military has been weakened by it.
https://theconversation.com/ukraine-war-why-are-so-many-russian-generals-being-killed-179517

For more on this theme:
Russia-Ukraine war: Syria’s Moscow-backed ‘IS Hunters’ call for recruits to join fight
Russia’s invasion of Ukraine and the nature of Iranian-Russian relations
https://www.mei.edu/publications/russias-invasion-ukraine-and-nature-iranian-russian-relations
Ukraine war gives Germany's fight against right-wing extremism new momentum
RUSSIA/UKRAINE

For more on this theme:

**What Happens in Russia If Putin Can't Win in Ukraine?**

**How Are Putin's Far-Right Fans in the West Reacting to His War?**
https://warontherocks.com/2022/03/how-are-putsins-far-right-fans-in-the-west-reacting-to-his-war/

**Timeline: A month of Russia's war in Ukraine**

**Russia falls back on urban siege warfare in Ukraine**

**Ukraine war could spur creation of new China-led trade bloc**

**Why Putin is mercilessly targeting civilians even as Zelensky pleads for peace talks**
https://www.cnn.com/2022/03/21/politics/zelensky-ceasefire-talks-ukraine-war-analysis/index.html

**Ukraine has denied Russia a victory for four weeks. A grim new phase could be coming**

**Analysis: Ukraine Crisis Reshaping Global Energy Flows**

**Analysis: China's role in Russia-Ukraine crisis**
https://www.wcax.com/2022/03/18/analysis-chinas-role-russia-ukraine-crisis/

**Big Brother v. Little Brother: A Critical Analysis of Russian President Vladimir Putin’s Legal Justifications for Russia’s Preventive War in Ukraine**
https://www.jurist.org/commentary/2022/03/victor-kattan-russia-ukraine-legal-justifications/

**Ukraine appears to have stalled Russia's advance. Here's what that could mean**
https://www.npr.org/2022/03/18/1087314355/russia-ukraine-invasion-latest-analysis

**Cutting oil demand likely to hurt Russia but could ease supply crisis**

**China Struggles To Strike A Balance Amid Russia's Invasion Of Ukraine**

**Russia's war against Ukraine reshapes the geopolitical and economic outlook**
https://ihsmarkit.com/research-analysis/russias-war-ukraine-reshapes-geopolitical-economic-outlook.html

**Putin drank the Kremlin Kool-Aid**
RUSSIA/UKRAINE

For more on this theme:

No longer neutral? War in Ukraine tests Finland's stance on Russia

From the Kremlin, Putin ponders war and peace
https://www.euronews.com/2022/03/17/uk-ukraine-crisis-russia-putin-analysis

Albright predicted Putin's strategic disaster in Ukraine

Russia's ‘War Of Choice’ On Ukraine In Strategic Quagmire

Ukraine war reveals Africa divided
https://issafrica.org/iss-today/ukraine-war-reveals-africa-divided

The Russian diaspora isn't showing much support for Russia's invasion of Ukraine
https://brighterworld.mcmaster.ca/articles/analysis-the-russian-diaspora-isnt-showing-much-support-for-russias-invasion-of-ukraine/

What's behind Russia's logistical mess in Ukraine? A US Army engineer looks at the tactical level.

Ukraine information war: Facebook and Twitter weaponised to support Russia
https://pressgazette.co.uk/ukraine-information-war/

Russia's fumbling invasion, visualized

Communication Breakdown: How Russia's Invasion Of Ukraine Bogged Down

Military supplies depleted on both sides but Russia retains advantage
https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/mar/23/military-supplies-depleted-on-both-sides-but-russia-retains-advantage

Russian cyber products face increasing rejection abroad
https://worldnationnews.com/analysis-russian-cyber-products-are-facing-increasing-rejection-abroad/

Russian War Report: Russia sends military contractors from Georgian breakaway region to Ukraine

Bold Ukrainians defy Putin's invasion and join European electricity grid
RUSSIA/UKRAINE

For more on this theme:

Russia Crisis Military Assessment: Moscow's increased threat against NATO intervention

Russian mercenaries in Ukraine linked to far-right extremists
https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/mar/20/russian-mercenaries-in-ukraine-linked-to-far-right-extremists

What Are The Chances Of A Kremlin Coup?

Will Moscow divert Wagner mercenaries from Africa to fight in Ukraine?
https://english.alaraby.co.uk/analysis/will-moscow-divert-wagner-fighters-africa-ukraine

Analysis: What We Are Likely to See in the Coming Weeks in Ukraine
https://intelnews.org/2022/03/21/01-3174/

A No-Fly Zone over Ukraine and International Law
https://lieber.westpoint.edu/no-fly-zone-ukraine-international-law/

Ukraine War Threatens Development Aid to World’s Poorer Nations

Why Do Many Chinese Sympathize With Russia in the Ukraine Conflict?

Russia’s invasion of Ukraine — a cautionary tale for Beijing?
https://www.japantimes.co.jp/opinion/2022/03/18/commentary/world-commentary/china-taiwan-lessons-russia-ukraine-war/