

THE MARSHALL CENTER

transnational weekly



A CURRENT AWARENESS SERVICE FROM THE MARSHALL CENTER

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COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

* UN General Assembly recognizes a day to focus on transnational organized crime *

<https://globalinitiative.net/analysis/international-day-for-the-prevention-of-and-fight-against-all-forms-of-transnational-organized-crime-united-nations/>

ORGANIZED CRIME AROUND THE WORLD

Corruption Has Become a Major Obstacle to Fighting Organized Crime in Ecuador

Gavin Voss – InSight Crime: 1 April 2024

Security crackdowns are targeting gangs in the streets, but recent cases signal an alarming escalation in high-level government corruption.

<https://www.financecolombia.com/corruption-has-become-a-major-obstacle-to-fighting-organized-crime-in-ecuador/>

For more on this theme:

Organized crime index in Africa in 2023, by country

<https://www.statista.com/statistics/1223810/countries-with-the-highest-organized-crime-index-in-africa/>

Financial Vulnerability Fuels Predatory Crime in Peru

<https://insightcrime.org/news/financial-vulnerability-fuels-predatory-crime-peru/>

Building bombings and 14-year-old hitmen: Organized crime overwhelms Sweden

<https://english.elpais.com/international/2024-03-31/building-bombings-and-14-year-old-hitmen-organized-crime-overwhelms-sweden.html>

Under the Microscope: Organized Crime's Growing Influence in Financial Markets

<https://www.kroll.com/en/insights/publications/financial-compliance-regulation/organized-crimes-growing-influence-in-financial-markets>

TRAFFICKING IN FIREARMS/WEAPONS

DHS attempts to stop a steady stream of guns from America to Haiti

Guad Venegas and Fredlyn Pierre Louis – NBC News: 2 April 2024

As gangs take over Port-au-Prince with rifles, machine guns and other weapons, the U.S. is trying to seize the weapons at a facility in South Florida before they leave the country.

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/dhs-stop-guns-america-haiti-rcna145522>

For more on this theme:

Working Group on Firearms, 11th Session

<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/treaties/CTOC/working-group-on-firearms-2024.html>

Urbanisation and arms trafficking: a deadly mix in Bamako and Lagos

<https://issafrica.org/iss-today/urbanisation-and-arms-trafficking-a-deadly-mix-in-bamako-and-lagos>

DRUG TRAFFICKING

Methamphetamine Traffickers in Mexico Become Global Wholesalers

Victoria Dittmar – InSight Crime: 3 April 2024

Expanding into new markets is a strategic financial move. Production costs per kilogram of methamphetamine can be as high as \$1,000, to which must be added transportation costs, bribes and the occasional fees paid to criminal groups along the route.

<https://insightcrime.org/news/methamphetamine-traffickers-mexico-become-global-wholesalers/>

For more on this theme:

Sandhya Aqua denies links to drug smuggling after cocaine found in imported shrimp feed ingredients

<https://www.seafoodsource.com/news/supply-trade/sandhya-aqua-denies-links-to-drug-smuggling-after-cocaine-found-in-imported-shrimp-feed-ingredients>

Communities in southern Syria take on the drug trade

<https://syriadirect.org/communities-in-southern-syria-take-on-the-drug-trade/>

Saudi Arabia seizes a million Captagon pills hidden in melon shipment

<https://english.enabbaladi.net/archives/2024/04/saudi-arabia-seizes-a-million-captagon-pills-hidden-in-melon-shipment/>

From India to Australia, Myanmar is flooding Asia with cheap meth

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Spotlight/Special-Reports/From-India-to-Australia-Myanmar-is-flooding-Asia-with-cheap-meth>

CURRENCY COUNTERFEITING

Gang held in Hyderabad for circulating counterfeit notes, Rs 36 lakh ‘currency’ seized

The New Indian Express: 3 April 2024

The police busted a gang involved in the printing and circulation of counterfeit Indian currency notes, officials said. Six people were arrested in the operation.

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/telangana/2024/Apr/03/gang-held-for-circulating-counterfeit-notes-rs-36-lakh-currency-seized>

For more on this theme:

RCMP issue counterfeit currency warning for Central Alberta

<https://www.mountainviewtoday.ca/innisfail-news/rcmp-issue-counterfeit-currency-warning-for-central-alberta-8522380>

34 months’ jail for man who used counterfeit money to buy cough syrup, shouted at doctor who wouldn’t prescribe it

<https://www.todayonline.com/singapore/34-months-jail-man-who-used-counterfeit-money-buy-cough-syrup-shouted-doctor-who-wouldnt-prescribe-it-2395356>

CYBERCRIME (FRAUD, EXPLOITATION, ETC.)

Indian Authorities Rescue Hundreds Trafficked For Cybercrime

Phil Muncaster – InfoSecurity: 2 April 2024

The government said it has been able to rescue hundreds of its citizens lured to Cambodia with job offers only to be forced into working for cybercrime gangs. However, many Indian nationals remain stuck in the Southeast Asian country after being tricked by scammers.

<https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/news/indian-rescue-hundreds-trafficked/>

For more on this theme:

Brett Johnson Helped Invent Cyber Crime; Now He Helps Fight Fraud

<https://www.govtech.com/magazines/brett-johnson-helped-invent-cyber-crime-now-he-helps-fight-fraud>

Omegle Shuts Down After 14-Year Run Marred by Child Safety Concerns

<https://www.the420.in/omegle-shuts-down-after-14-years-due-to-child-safety-concerns/>

Russia charges suspects behind theft of 160,000 credit cards

<https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/security/russia-charges-suspects-behind-theft-of-160-000-credit-cards/>

'Pig-butchering': The online scam that's raked in \$75 billion and counting

<https://www.wbur.org/onpoint/2024/04/03/pig-butchering-online-scam-billion-crypto>

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY CRIME

European Commission Adopts Toolbox to Combat Counterfeiting

John Macaluso – JD Supra: 28 March 2024

The action will help brands enforce their intellectual property (IP) rights. The toolkit builds on the commission's 2020 Intellectual Property Action Plan to enhance IP enforcement and the 2022 Digital Services Act.

<https://www.jdsupra.com/legalnews/european-commission-adopts-toolbox-to-9399917/>

For more on this theme:

Here's How Amazon's Fight Against Counterfeits Is Going

<https://uk.news.yahoo.com/amazon-fight-against-counterfeits-going-030652301.html>

Concern over counterfeits from AliExpress, Temu prompt crackdown

<https://koreajoongangdaily.joins.com/news/2024-04-02/business/industry/Concern-over-counterfeits-from-Chinese-retail-apps-prompts-crack-down/2015779>

Police seize fake iPhones in \$750,000 haul of counterfeit items

<https://appleinsider.com/articles/24/03/29/police-seize-fake-iphones-in-750000-haul-of-counterfeit-items>

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Gangs netting up to \$3 trillion a year as Southeast Asia human trafficking becomes a global crisis, Interpol says

Kathleen Magramo – CNN: 28 March 2024

Human trafficking-fueled fraud is exploding in Southeast Asia with organized crime rings raking in illicit revenue, the head of Interpol said in comments that reveal the huge profits being earned by cartels.

<https://www.cnn.com/2024/03/28/asia/southeast-asia-interpol-scam-human-trafficking-crime-intl-hnk/index.html>

For more on this theme:

Most common forms of exploitation of victims of trafficking in persons in Sub-Saharan Africa as of 2020, by region

<https://www.statista.com/statistics/1237571/exploitation-of-victims-of-trafficking-in-persons-in-africa/>

Honduras to Chiapas: A Human Trafficking Pipeline

<https://elfaro.net/en/202404/centroamerica/27296/honduras-to-chiapas-a-human-trafficking-pipeline>

Trafficking survivors lead the fight against modern slavery

<https://www.fairplanet.org/story/humam-trafficking-survivors-in-africa-fight-against-the-crisis/>

Addressing Child Trafficking in Nepal: Bridging the Gap between Research and Practice

<https://asiafoundation.org/2024/03/28/addressing-child-trafficking-in-nepal-bridging-the-gap-between-research-and-practice/>

CONSTRUCTION FRAUD AND CORRUPTION

Deadly Windstorm in China's Jiangxi Province Exposes Major Corruption Scandal

Alina Wang – Vision Times: 2 April 2024

Devastating weather struck Nanchang, a city located in China's southeast, on March 31. The storm's force was so powerful that it claimed four lives and injured at least 10 others. Amid the chaos and destruction, community members began to question the quality of building construction.

<https://www.visiontimes.com/2024/04/02/deadly-windstorm-in-chinas-jiangxi-province-exposes-major-corruption-scandal.html>

For more on this theme:

African Development Bank Suspends Chinese Contractor Due to Fraud

<https://chinaglobalsouth.com/2024/04/02/african-development-bank-suspends-chinese-contractor-due-to-fraud/>

Public Works is cracking down on 'construction mafia' head-on

<https://www.msn.com/en-za/news/other/public-works-is-cracking-down-on-construction-mafia-head-on/ar-BB1kN3AQ>

Insight: How Europe's organised crime networks use construction, hospitality and logistics sectors to launder dirty money

<https://www.amlintelligence.com/2024/04/insight-how-europes-organised-crime-networks-use-construction-hospitality-and-logistics-sectors-to-launder-dirty-money/>

SPECIAL SECTION: ITALY AND ORGANIZED CRIME

Trafficked and Tortured: Bulgarian Women's Nightmare in Italian Prostitution Network

Novinite.com: 28 March 2024

Reports from Italian authorities detail a horrifying ordeal where victims were subjected to physical violence and coercion, painting a grim picture of human trafficking and exploitation.

<https://www.novinite.com/articles/225149/>

[Trafficked+and+Tortured%3A+Bulgarian+Women%27s+Nightmare+in+Italian+Prostitution+Network](https://www.novinite.com/articles/225149/)

For more on this theme (over the past 6 months):

Who Are The 'Ndrangheta? Hundreds Of Mobsters Convicted From Italian Criminal Group Worth Billions

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/zacharyfolk/2023/11/21/who-are-the-ndrangheta-hundreds-of-mobsters-convicted-from-italian-criminal-group-worth-billions/>

How the Kremlin uses Italian organized crime groups to sponsor pro-Russian forces in Slovakia

<https://lansinginstitute.org/2024/02/05/how-the-kremlin-uses-italian-organized-crime-groups-to-sponsor-pro-russian-forces-in-slovakia/>

How Mafia Crackdowns Drive Competition and Innovation in Local Economies

<https://www.rhsmith.umd.edu/research/how-mafia-crackdowns-drive-competition-and-innovation-local-economies>

Violence is contagious among members of Italian mafia groups, study shows

<https://phys.org/news/2024-02-violence-contagious-members-italian-mafia.html>

Italy expands controversial program to take mafia children from their families before they become criminals

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/italy-mafia-children-program-takes-kids-from-organized-crime-families/>

The rise and fall of an anti-mafia hero

<https://globalinitiative.net/analysis/anti-mafia-judge-imprisonment-ocindex/>

How Italy's 'ndrangheta mafia went global

<https://www.politico.eu/article/lucio-aquino-ndrangheta-mafia-godfather-of-maasmechelen-belgium-italy/>

Italy sees tens of thousands take part in anti-Mafia demonstrations

<https://www.yahoo.com/news/italy-sees-tens-thousands-part-173003557.html>

Malta a 'transit point' for weapons trafficking from Southern Europe to North Africa

https://www.maltatoday.com.mt/news/national/125200/malta_a_transit_point_for_weapons_trafficking_from_southern_europe_to_north_africa

Europe a transport route for Gulf-bound Captagon shipments: Report

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/9/14/europe-a-transport-route-for-gulf-bound-captagon-shipments-report>

EU Drug Markets: In-depth analysis

https://www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/eu-drug-markets_en

PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

INTERNET GOVERNANCE

China and the great global AI governance divide

Benjamin Herscovitch – The Interpreter: 27 March 2024

For all the common global purpose on the need to manage the risks associated with the rapid development of artificial intelligence, deep fissures about how to govern this new technology are emerging between China and a range of democracies.

<https://www.lowyinstitute.org/the-interpreter/china-great-global-ai-governance-divide>

For more on this theme:

(Global) Unraveling the Layers of Internet Fragmentation: A Deeper Dive Into Global Connectivity

<https://circleid.com/posts/20240328-unraveling-the-layers-of-internet-fragmentation>

(Global) Nathan Schneider on Building Democratic Governance on the Internet

<https://www.resilience.org/stories/2024-04-02/nathan-schneider-on-building-democratic-governance-on-the-internet/>

(Global) The Global Digital Compact and the Future of Digital Governance

<https://circleid.com/posts/20240403-the-global-digital-compact-and-the-future-of-digital-governance>

(China, Global) China Walks Perilous AI Tightrope

<https://cepa.org/article/china-walks-perilous-ai-tightrope/>

INTERNET FREEDOM

South Korean Censorship Obscures Vital Information – Analysis

Martin Weiser – East Asia Forum: 31 March 2024

North Korea deleted a large portion of its online presence in January 2024, with eight of its websites going offline along with most of its social media accounts. The scope of this deletion only slowly made headlines in South Korea due to the comprehensive censorship.

<https://www.eurasiareview.com/31032024-south-korean-censorship-obscures-vital-information-analysis/>

For more on this theme:

(Spain) Telegram suspension in Spain: ‘It’s like closing a province because a robbery occurred there’

<https://english.elpais.com/technology/2024-03-24/telegram-suspension-in-spain-its-like-closing-a-province-because-a-robbery-occurred-there.html>

(Pakistan) Internet Censorship in Pakistan in 2024

<https://hackernoon.com/internet-censorship-in-pakistan-in-2024>

CYBER STRATEGY

Navigating Cybersecurity and Surveillance: Iran's Dual Strategy for National Security

Nima Khorrami – Washington Institute for Near East Policy: 29 March 2024

While Iranian officials acknowledge the significance of cyber tools and artificial intelligence for foreign policy, they are acutely aware of the country's financial and scientific limitations.

<https://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/navigating-cybersecurity-and-surveillance-irans-dual-strategy-national-security>

For more on this theme:

(EU, Global) EU drops sovereignty requirements in cybersecurity certification scheme, document shows

<https://www.reuters.com/technology/eu-drops-sovereignty-requirements-cybersecurity-certification-scheme-document-2024-04-03/>

(China) China's SSF uses civilians for space, cyber, and psychological warfare

<https://interestingengineering.com/military/china-secret-force-ssf>

(China) Pulling the Curtain Back on China's Cyber Espionage

<https://www.informationweek.com/cyber-resilience/pulling-the-curtain-back-on-china-s-cyber-espionage>

CYBER WARFARE

U.S. Marine Corps Boosts Cyber Defense in Face of China Threat

Stavros Atlamazoglou – The National Interest: 29 March 2024

The Marines are significantly enhancing their cyber warfare capabilities, particularly with an eye toward potential conflicts with Beijing, by deploying cyber troops to strategic locations such as Okinawa, Japan.

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/us-marine-corps-boosts-cyber-defense-face-china-threat-210294>

For more on this theme:

(Global) When Russian cyber operations targeted the West

<https://asiatimes.com/2024/03/when-russian-cyber-operations-targeted-the-west/>

(U.S.) US debates while China implements Cyber Force concept

<https://asiatimes.com/2024/03/us-debates-while-china-implements-cyber-force-concept/>

(Global) Why cyber indictments and sanctions matter

<https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/why-cyber-indictments-and-sanctions-matter/>

PROTECTION OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Why the World Needs a New Cyber Treaty for Critical Infrastructure

Patryk Pawlak and Aude Géry – Carnegie: 28 March 2024

While states acknowledge the need to better protect infrastructure against cyberattacks, national and international efforts have brought limited results. The solution could be a global treaty that strengthens cooperation.

<https://carnegieeurope.eu/2024/03/28/why-world-needs-new-cyber-treaty-for-critical-infrastructure-pub-92063>

For more on this theme:

(U.S.) Critical infrastructure may be the subject of disruptive cyberattacks

<https://www.securitymagazine.com/articles/100543-critical-infrastructure-may-be-the-subject-of-disruptive-cyberattacks>

(Global) Cyber attacks on critical infrastructure show advanced tactics and new capabilities

<https://www.helpnetsecurity.com/2024/04/03/marty-edwards-tenable-critical-infrastructure-systems-cybersecurity/>

(U.S.) CISA Proposes Cyberattack Reporting Rules for Critical Infrastructure Entities

<https://www.hipaajournal.com/cisa-cyberattack-reporting-rules-critical-infrastructure/>

(China, U.S.) 'Everything, Everywhere, All At Once': U.S. Officials Warn of Increased Cyberthreats

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2024/04/01/cybersecurity-defense-hacking-china-russia-iran-critical-infrastructure/>

PUBLIC/PRIVATE COOPERATION

How Public-Private Collaborations Can Fight Ransomware

Jule Pattison-Gordon – GovTech: 29 March 2024

A report looks at three major counter-ransomware collaborations between the sectors, offering up a list of challenges along with some best practices.

<https://www.govtech.com/security/how-public-private-collaborations-can-fight-ransomware>

For more on this theme:

(U.S.) My View: How public-private partnerships can play a key role in AI integration

<https://www.bizjournals.com/phoenix/inno/stories/inno-insights/2024/04/03/private-public-partnership-artificial-intelligence.html>

(U.S.) NIST Proposes Public-Private Group to Help with NVD Backlog

<https://securityboulevard.com/2024/04/nist-proposes-public-private-group-to-help-with-nvd-backlog/>

(Global) Strengthening cyber resiliency through collaboration

<https://www.csoonline.com/article/2079982/strengthening-cyber-resiliency-through-collaboration.html>

INSIDER RISK

How to bridge the gap between the IT and legal staffs to better combat insider risk

Joe Payne – SC Media: 2 April 2024

Information technology security leaders and legal professionals might not always have much in common in terms of their employee responsibilities, yet they are increasingly united in one essential aspect: defending their organizations' sensitive data and intellectual property against both threats from external parties and, increasingly, from trusted insiders.

<https://www.scmagazine.com/perspective/how-to-bridge-the-gap-between-the-it-and-legal-around-insider-risk>

For more on this theme:

(Global) Is the Human Factor Overlooked in Cybersecurity?

<https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/opinions/human-factor-overlooked/>

(Global) Healthcare's cyber resilience under siege as attacks multiply

<https://www.helpnetsecurity.com/2024/04/04/eric-demers-madaket-health-healthcare-organizations-cyber-resilience/>

(U.S., Global) Zero Trust Meets Insider Risk Management

<https://securityboulevard.com/2024/03/zero-trust-meets-insider-risk-management/>

RANSOMWARE

Details and Lessons Learned From the Ransomware Attack on the British Library

Kevin Townsend – SecurityWeek: 28 March 2024

Although the incursion occurred five months ago, the library's infrastructure won't be rebuilt until mid-April, and then the full restoration of systems and data can begin.

<https://www.securityweek.com/details-and-lessons-learned-from-the-ransomware-attack-on-the-british-library/>

For more on this theme:

(Vietnam) Ransomware, Junk Bank Accounts: Cyber Threats Proliferate in Vietnam

<https://www.darkreading.com/cyber-risk/ransomware-junk-bank-accounts-cyberthreats-proliferates-in-vietnam>

(Scotland) Ransomware gang leaks stolen Scottish healthcare patient data in extortion bid

<https://therecord.media/healthcare-ransomware-data-breach-nhs-scotland>

(Global) Collaboration Needed to Fight Ransomware

<https://www.darkreading.com/vulnerabilities-threats/collaboration-needed-to-fight-ransomware>

PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

ISIS

After Attack in Russia, Focus Turns to ISKP in Afghanistan and Central Asia

Shanthie Mariet D'Souza – The Diplomat 28 March 2024

The focus on and understanding of the core areas of the Islamic State group's Afghanistan affiliate need to be expanded to include the large frontiers of Central Asia.

<https://thediplomat.com/2024/03/after-attack-in-russia-focus-turns-to-iskp-in-afghanistan-and-central-asia/>

For more on this theme:

Why would Islamic State attack Russia and what does this mean for the terrorism threat globally?

<https://theconversation.com/why-would-islamic-state-attack-russia-and-what-does-this-mean-for-the-terrorism-threat-globally-226464>

IntelBrief: Islamic State Khorasan Province and Terrorist Networks Throughout Central Asia

<https://thesoufancenter.org/intelbrief-2024-march-29/>

Moscow attack: Has the Islamic State really made a comeback?

<https://www.newarab.com/analysis/moscow-attack-has-islamic-state-really-made-comeback>

Islamic State calls for massacre by 'lone wolves', agencies on alert

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/delhi/is-calls-for-massacre-by-lone-wolves-agencies-on-alert/articleshow/108886194.cms>

Ex-intelligence chief: Daesh split into three factions in Afghanistan

<https://amu.tv/90028/>

How ISIS has Europe and the US in sights after deadly Moscow attack

<https://www.cnn.com/2024/03/30/europe/how-isis-has-europe-and-the-us-in-sights-after-deadly-moscow-attack/index.html>

Former top general warns of 'inevitable' threats to US from Islamic State in wake of Moscow attack

<https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/former-top-general-warns-inevitable-threats-us-isis/story?id=108690980>

Moscow terror attack showed growing reach of ISIS-K — could the US be next?

<https://theconversation.com/moscow-terror-attack-showed-growing-reach-of-isis-k-could-the-us-be-next-226570>

Asfandiyar Mir on Why ISIS-K Attacked Moscow

<https://www.usip.org/publications/2024/04/asfandiyar-mir-why-isis-k-attacked-moscow>

The Continuing Threat of ISIS in Iraq after the Withdrawal of the International Coalition

<https://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/continuing-threat-isis-iraq-after-withdrawal-international-coalition>

ISIS

For more on this theme:

The Shift from Globalization to Regionalization in Terrorist Strategies and Operations: Understanding the Escalating Threat of ISIS-K Attacks

<https://www.hstoday.us/subject-matter-areas/counterterrorism/article-the-shift-from-globalization-to-regionalization-in-terrorist-strategies-and-operations-understanding-the-escalating-threat-of-isis-k-attacks/>

Terror threat upgrade shows ‘one attack won’t be enough’ for ISIS

<https://www.thenationalnews.com/news/europe/2024/03/28/terror-threat-upgrade-shows-one-attack-wont-be-enough-for-isis/>

The Islamic State Five Years After the Collapse of the Caliphate

<https://www.fpri.org/article/2024/03/the-islamic-state-five-years-after-the-collapse-of-the-caliphate/>

Inside the camp full of Isis recruits now too scared to return home

<https://inews.co.uk/news/inside-camp-isis-fighters-scared-return-home-2981569>

US says it warned Russia ‘in writing’ about threat before ISIS concert shooting in Moscow

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2024/03/28/us-warned-russia-terrorist-attack-concert-shooting/73130550007/>

Islamic State spokesperson praises group’s attack on concert hall in Russia

<https://www.reuters.com/world/islamic-state-spokesperson-praises-groups-attack-concert-hall-russia-2024-03-28/>

Kremlin critic examines Moscow’s attempts to blame others for Islamic State attack

<https://www.voanews.com/a/kremlin-critic-examines-moscow-attempts-to-blame-others-for-islamic-state-attack/7555242.html>

The Moscow Terrorist Attack: Pro-Islamic State Narratives and their Wider Implications

<https://gnet-research.org/2024/04/03/the-moscow-terrorist-attack-pro-is-narratives-and-wider-implications/>

Regional Governments Seen Struggling to Control IS-Khorasan

<https://www.voanews.com/a/regional-governments-seen-struggling-to-control-is-khorasan/7548967.html>

An Act of Terror Cannot Occur on Russian Soil

<https://www.wilsoncenter.org/blog-post/act-terror-cannot-occur-russian-soil>

Islamic State Escalates Anti-Russian Militant Campaign

<https://thediplomat.com/2024/04/islamic-state-escalates-anti-russian-militant-campaign/>

Inside Islamic State’s transformation, from life support to ‘slaughtering with gusto’

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-03-29/crocus-theatre-attack-shows-islamic-state-is-down-but-not-out/103642732>

Russia-Afghanistan relations in the aftermath of the Moscow attack

<https://www.brookings.edu/articles/russia-afghanistan-relations-in-the-aftermath-of-the-moscow-attack/>

TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

The persistent threat of global terrorism

Peter Brookes – GIS: 4 April 2024

The world is likely to remain vulnerable to terror attacks, given emboldened state sponsors such as Iran, fragile states such as Afghanistan, and opportune targets around elections in Europe and Asia.

<https://www.gisreportsonline.com/r/threat-global-terrorism/>

For more on this theme:

Blood brothers: Al Qaeda, Taliban and the pledge that binds them in 2024

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Regional environment behind recent terror attacks will likely support extreme groups

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New leader for Al-Qaeda's infamous but struggling Yemen branch

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Climate change impacts terrorist activity

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East Africa More Likely Than West Africa to Emerge as Jihadist Foreign Fighter Hotspot

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Fighting terrorism also means fighting AI-linked disinformation: French senator

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ISRAEL/HAMAS

Bowen: The Israel-Gaza war is at a crossroads

Jeremy Bowen – BBC: 3 April 2024

All except the shortest wars have times when killing is an unchanging, grim routine. There are also moments, like the recent days in the Middle East, when events leave belligerents and their allies at a crossroads with big decisions to make.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-68722308>

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In Israel, Resilience Is Now a National Security Issue

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US pushes alternatives to Rafah invasion in Hamas war talks with Israel

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Amid violence and hunger, Palestinians in Gaza are determined to mark Ramadan

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Israel concedes it may not be able to destroy Hamas

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Ismail Haniyeh: Hamas won't back down from hostage deal demands

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Israeli war Cabinet member calls for September elections amid Gaza war

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Israel sees largest anti-government protest since Hamas war began

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How Hamas, PIJ's visits to Iran signal a new phase in war on Israel – analysis

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RUSSIA/UKRAINE

NATO at 75: The Alliance's future lies in Ukraine's victory against Russia

Ian Brzezinski – Atlantic Council: 3 April 2024

NATO marked its 75th anniversary on April 4 as history's most successful military alliance. However, its future as a credible deterrent to aggression now lies in the success or failure of Russia's unjust and brutal invasion of Ukraine.

<https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/new-atlanticist/nato-at-75-the-alliances-future-lies-in-ukraines-victory-against-russia/>

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No, Putin, the ISIS-K attack in Moscow wasn't about Ukraine

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Ukraine's Belarusian volunteers create headaches for Putin ally Lukashenka

<https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/ukrainealert/ukraines-belarusian-volunteers-create-headaches-for-putin-ally-lukashenka/>

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Putin has repeatedly used terror attacks to tighten his grip on Russia

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Putin adds Islamist terror to the list of absurd excuses for Ukraine invasion

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Terrorism Undercuts Putin's Political Agenda

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Tightening Sanctions Will Further Compromise Russia's War-Torn Economy

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The Kremlin Struggles to Maintain Public Support for 'Long War'

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Zelenskyy fires more aides in a reshuffle as Russia launches drones and missiles across Ukraine

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Russia's Lavrov tells newspaper that Ukraine peace plan is pointless

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RUSSIA/UKRAINE

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France wants China to send ‘clear messages’ to Russia over Ukraine war

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Russia’s military is ‘almost completely reconstituted’ as it goes into overdrive to shore up losses in Ukraine: US official

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Why the Ukraine and Gaza wars mean Russia could now support a nuclear-armed Iran

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