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# the marshall center transnational weekly

# A CURRENT AWARENESS SERVICE FROM THE MARSHALL CENTER

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The Marshall Center Transnational Weekly is a current awareness, information and policy tool for Marshall Center stakeholders to inform them about online publications by think tanks, research institutes and other organizations that deal with transnational subjects. Use of these brief excerpts and links does not reflect the views of or endorsement by the Marshall Center, the U.S. government or the German government. All original content in these compilations is copyrighted unless specifically noted otherwise. All rights to copyrighted items are reserved.

# COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

# CORRUPTION

# Peru's Ex-President Surrendered To U.S. Officials For Extradition In Mega Corruption Scandal — Here's What To Know

Katherine Hamilton - Forbest: 21 April 2023

Alejandro Toledo surrendered for extradition in a case claiming he accepted bribes from Odebrecht, a Brazilian construction conglomerate.

https://www.forbes.com/sites/katherinehamilton/2023/04/21/perus-ex-president-surrendered-to-us-officials-for-extradition-in-mega-corruption-scandal---heres-what-to-know/?sh=51d92d34606b

#### **Corruption Takes Center Stage in Paraguay Presidential Election**

Christopher Newton – InSight Crime: 26 April 2023

Paraguay's long struggle against corruption was a major theme of April 30 elections, with leading candidates proposing starkly different approaches to the issue.

https://insightcrime.org/news/corruption-takes-center-stage-in-paraguay-presidential-election/

#### For more on this theme:

#### China: Xi's anti corruption drive targeting billionaires and bankers

https://www.firstpost.com/world/china-xis-anti-corruption-drive-targeting-billionaires-and-bankers-12476192. html

#### China's corruption spreads to Africa

https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2023/apr/19/chinas-corruption-spreads-to-africa/

#### AD632: Liberians cite corruption, lack of professionalism among police failings

https://www.afrobarometer.org/publication/ad632-liberians-cite-corruption-lack-of-professionalism-among-po-lice-failings/

#### **Dozens Of Ugandan Officials Face Prosecution Over Corruption Scandal**

https://www.barrons.com/news/dozens-of-ugandan-officials-face-prosecution-over-corruption-scandal-e3572b16

#### **Bitcoin Miners Trapped In Alleged \$20 Billion Corruption Scheme In Venezuela**

https://www.forbes.com/sites/digital-assets/2023/04/20/bitcoin-miners-trapped-in-alleged-20-billion-corruption-scheme-in-venezuela/?sh=40e95b8e6b65

# Mexico's transparency institute has revealed government corruption and wrongdoing. It's now paralyzed

https://news.yahoo.com/mexicos-president-says-better-government-164802574.html

#### Fighting Chinese Soccer Corruption Takes Better-Paid Athletes

https://www.bloomberg.com/opinion/articles/2023-04-23/fighting-chinese-football-corruption-takes-bet-ter-paid-athletes#xj4y7vzkg?leadSource=uverify%20wall

# DRUG TRAFFICKING

#### **Cocaine and Marijuana Fuel Ever-Higher Homicides in Costa Rica** Henry Shuldiner – InSight Crime: 27 April 2023

Drugs gangs battling over control of Costa Rica's cocaine trafficking infrastructure and the domestic marijuana market are fueling an increase in violence in the country, which last year saw its highest homicide rate.

https://insightcrime.org/news/cocaine-and-marijuana-fuel-ever-higher-homicides-in-costa-rica/

#### Singapore executes citizen for cannabis trafficking

Chen Lin – Reuters: 26 April 2023

Singapore executed a man convicted of drug trafficking, a representative for his family said, despite pleas from his relatives and activists for clemency.

https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/singapore-executes-citizen-cannabis-trafficking-2023-04-26/

#### For more on this theme:

#### EU sanctions cousins of Syria's Assad for alleged drug trafficking

https://www.france24.com/en/middle-east/20230424-eu-sanctions-cousins-of-syrian-president-assad-for-drug-trafficking

#### S Korean President Calls for 'War' on Crypto-powered Drug Trafficking

https://cryptonews.com/news/s-korean-president-calls-for-war-on-crypto-powered-drug-trafficking.htm

#### The terrorist-drug nexus: Why drug trafficking is a serious security issue

https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/the-terrorist-drug-nexus-why-drug-trafficking-is-a-serious-security-issue-8561806/

#### Turkey emerges as a cocaine and fentanyl trafficking hub: report

https://www.turkishminute.com/2023/04/14/turkey-emerge-cocaine-fentanyl-trafficking-hub/

#### 'Clan Farruku' Arrests Highlight Albanians' Latin America Cocaine Connections

https://insightcrime.org/news/albania-clan-farruku-cocaine-pipeline-ecuador-to-europe/

#### Ecuador Gang Massacre Highlights Intensified Fight for Drug Routes

https://insightcrime.org/news/gang-massacres-nine-ecuador-fight-drug-routes-intensifies/

#### Rise of Coke Labs in Europe Signals 'Death' of the Smuggled Cocaine Brick

https://www.vice.com/en/article/qjv8e7/rise-of-coke-labs-in-europe-signal-death-of-the-smuggled-co-caine-brick

#### Inside the Firm: How an international drug cartel plotted a 'line to Australia'

https://www.msn.com/en-au/news/australia/inside-the-firm-how-an-international-drug-cartel-plotted-a-line-to-australia/ar-AA19UG2E?ocid=Peregrine

#### Mexican Cartels Are Turning Once-Peaceful Ecuador Into a Narco War Zone

https://www.vice.com/en/article/xgwxyn/ecuador-mexico-drug-war-cocaine

#### Seychelles: a tropical paradise with the world's worst heroin problem

https://mercatornet.com/seychelles-a-tropical-paradise-with-the-worlds-worst-heroin-problem/83858/

## TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

#### Peace, Poaching and Pangolins in Central Africa

Alexia Tata - United States Institute of Peace: 25 April 2023

Demand for wildlife products from Southeast Asia is driving trafficking and financing conflicts. https://www.usip.org/publications/2023/04/peace-poaching-and-pangolins-central-africa

#### Mexico takes aim against marine animals' trafficking but criminal networks persist Albinson Linares and Noticias Telemundo – NBC News: 21 April 2023

Steps to protect the totoaba fish and vaquita porpoise come after the country was sanctioned, but they are being challenged by those intent on selling the fish.

https://www.nbcnews.com/news/latino/mexico-illegal-trafficking-totoaba-fish-vaquita-porpoise-endan-gered-rcna80834

#### For more on this theme:

## 'They have conned us out of our lands': Conflict brews in Peru as Mennonite settlers clear forest

https://news.mongabay.com/2023/04/they-have-conned-us-out-of-our-lands-conflict-brews-in-peru-as-mennonite-settlements-clear-forest/

#### How AI can help the environment

https://www.dw.com/en/how-ai-can-help-the-environment/a-65246457

#### It's Time for China to Cut Bait: Countering CCP Illegal Fishing

https://intpolicydigest.org/it-s-time-for-china-to-cut-bait-countering-ccp-illegal-fishing/

# New expose of Australia's exotic pet trade shows an alarming proliferation of alien, threatened and illegal species

https://phys.org/news/2023-04-expos-australia-exotic-pet-alarming.html

#### 'Fingerprint' of wood can help fight illegal trade

https://phys.org/news/2023-04-fingerprint-wood-illegal.html

#### A Rare Glimpse into Afghanistan's Spectacular, Vanishing Forests

https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/a-rare-glimpse-into-afghanistans-spectacular-vanishing-forests/

Illicit annual exports from Africa's extractive industries estimated at US\$98bn — Report reveals

https://www.modernghana.com/news/1225632/illicit-annual-exports-from-africas-extractive.html

#### Report warns of rising violence against environmental defenders in Mexico

https://news.mongabay.com/2023/04/report-warns-of-rising-violence-against-environmental-defenders-in-mexico/

#### China's demand for raw materials drives deforestation by mining, report says

https://www.rfa.org/english/news/environment/china-mining-04262023170907.html

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# **PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)**

# INTERNET FREEDOM

#### How Africans Can Prepare for Internet Shutdowns 'Gbenga Sesan – Carnegie: 25 April 2023

Activists and citizens must ensure that governments respect their digital rights.

https://carnegieendowment.org/2023/04/25/how-africans-can-prepare-for-internet-shutdowns-pub-89595

For more on this theme:

#### (China, Hong Kong) The normalization of Chinese-style censorship in Hong Kong

https://globalvoices.org/2023/04/14/the-normalization-of-chinese-style-censorship-in-hong-kong/

# (Global) Digital Authoritarianism Poses 'Critical Threat' to National Security, Intel Chief Says

https://www.nextgov.com/emerging-tech/2023/04/digital-authoritarianism-poses-critical-threat-national-security-intel-chief-says/385614/

#### (China) Chinese censorship is quietly rewriting the COVID-19 story

https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2023/04/24/asia-pacific/chinese-censorship-is-quietly-rewrit-ing-the-covid-19-story/

# CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING

#### **State Dept wants 'cyber assistance fund' to aid allies and partners against hackers** *Sydney J. Freedberg Jr. – Breaking Defense: 10 April 2023*

The special fund is part of a three-part plan floated by Nate Fick, the State Department's roving ambassador for cybersecurity, to help bolster allied cyber skills before – and during – crises.

https://breakingdefense.com/2023/04/state-dept-wants-cyber-assistance-fund-to-aid-allies-and-partners-against-hackers/

For more on this theme:

#### (U.S., Global) Can AI Help Solve The Workforce Skills Gap?

https://www.forbes.com/sites/forbestechcouncil/2023/04/06/can-ai-help-solve-the-workforce-skills-gap/?sh=53db802c134f

#### (Global) Modern Cyber Ranges: Cloud-Native, Mobile And On The Edge

https://www.forbes.com/sites/forbestechcouncil/2023/04/07/modern-cyber-ranges-cloud-native-mobile-and-on-the-edge/?sh=153e1c104be8

#### (Albania) National Cybersecurity Office Funding Stood Up By Albanese Government

https://www.techbusinessnews.com.au/news/national-cybersecurity-office-funding-stood-up-by-albanese-government/

#### (Global) How the Talent Shortage Impacts Cybersecurity Leadership

https://securityintelligence.com/articles/how-talent-shortage-impacts-cybersecurity-leadership/

#### CYBER STRATEGY AND RISKS

**Government launches new cyber security measures to tackle ever growing threats** *Government of the United Kingdom: 20 April 2023* 

New and enhanced cybersecurity measures will better protect the U.K. government's IT systems, which run key services for the public.

https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-launches-new-cyber-security-measures-to-tackle-ever-growing-threats--2

For more on this theme:

(Global) Cyber Diplomacy Is in High Demand

https://www.afcea.org/signal-media/cyber-edge/cyber-diplomacy-high-demand

# (Ukraine) Ukraine recording hundreds of cyber-attacks on critical infrastructure daily

https://www.skynews.com.au/opinion/sharri-markson/ukraine-recording-hundreds-of-cyberattacks-on-critical-infrastructure-daily/video/567cd9f994d2130702fed50ea7ad5218

(Russia, Canada) Russian hacktivist threat on Canada's pipelines is 'call to action,' top cyber official says

https://therecord.media/russia-hacktivist-threat-to-canadian-pipelines-a-call-to-action

(Global) #RSAC: Climate Change is Increasing Cyber-Risks

https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/news/climate-change-cyber-risks/

# CYBERATTACKS

#### **Capita admits customer data may have been breached during cyber-attack** *Kalyeena Makortoff – The Guardian: 20 April 2023*

Hack caused major outages for some clients including local councils and "potentially accessed public sector data."

https://www.theguardian.com/business/2023/apr/20/capita-admits-customer-data-may-have-been-breached-during-cyber-attack

For more on this theme:

#### (Latvia) Cyber attacks on Latvian public sector quadrupled last year

https://eng.lsm.lv/article/society/defense/26.04.2023-cyber-attacks-on-latvian-public-sector-quadrupled-last-year.a506410/

#### (Israel) Clashes at Al-Aqsa Mosque stir a wave of cyberattacks against Israel

https://cybernews.com/news/israel-cyberattack-jerusalem-mosque/

(Israel, Iran) Iranian hackers targeted Israelis using rare cyberattack techniques

https://www.jpost.com/business-and-innovation/tech-and-start-ups/article-741332

# (Europe, Russia) European air traffic control agency's website under cyber attack from pro-Russian hackers: Report

https://www.wionews.com/world/european-air-traffic-control-agencys-website-under-cyber-at-tack-from-pro-russian-hackers-report-584749

#### CYBERCRIME

#### Study of past cyber attacks can improve organizations' defense strategies Help Net Security: 24 April 2023

Ransomware operators have been increasingly demanding higher ransoms and publicly exposing victims, leading to the emergence of an ecosystem that involves access brokers, ransomware service providers, insurance providers and ransom negotiators, according to Deepwatch. https://www.helpnetsecurity.com/2023/04/24/cybercriminals-attack-surface/

For more on this theme:

#### (Global) Report finds generative AI is lowering the barrier of entry to cybercrime

https://siliconangle.com/2023/04/12/report-finds-generative-ai-lowering-barrier-entry-cybercrime/

#### (Global) How Blockchain Can Aid in Combating Cybercrime?

https://www.analyticsinsight.net/how-blockchain-can-aid-in-combating-cybercrime/

### (Global) Partnership and threat intelligence sharing to disrupt cybercrime

https://www.dqindia.com/partnership-and-threat-intelligence-sharing-to-disrupt-cybercrime/

# CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION

#### **Quad Countries Prepare For Info Sharing on Critical Infrastructure**

Phil Muncaster – InforSecurity: 26 April 2023

The Quadrilateral Security Dialogue is working on a new information-sharing agreement that would help its four members improve their response to critical infrastructure threats, according to reports.

https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/news/quad-info-sharing-critical/

#### For more on this theme:

#### (Australia) Australian manufacturers fear nation-state cyber threats

https://www.technologydecisions.com.au/content/security/news/australian-manufacturers-fear-na-tion-state-cyber-threats-182957990

#### (U.S.) CISA, US Cyber Command Collaborate on Defending Critical Infrastructure

https://executivegov.com/2023/04/cisa-us-cyber-command-collaborate-on-defending-critical-infrastruc-ture/

#### (Global) UK Warns of Russian Hackers Targeting Critical Infrastructure

https://www.securityweek.com/uk-warns-of-russian-hackers-targeting-critical-infrastructure/

#### (U.K., U.S., Global) Critical Infrastructure Firms Concerned Over Insider Threat

https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/news/critical-infrastructure-concerned/



# **PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)**

#### ISIS AND FOREIGN FIGHTERS

# EER Podcast: What Should Western Governments Do About Islamic State Foreign Fighters?

European Eye on Radicalization: 21 April 2023

What are the legal and political issues for Western states in bringing home their citizens who joined the Islamic State group?

https://eeradicalization.com/podcast-episode-6-phil-gurski-isis-fighters-west/

#### For more on this theme:

#### ISIS beats back Wagner offensive in central Syria

https://www.mei.edu/publications/isis-beats-back-wagner-offensive-central-syria

# ISIS-K leader behind deadly 2021 suicide bombing at Kabul airport killed by Taliban, White House says

https://www.cnn.com/2023/04/25/politics/isis-k-leader-killed-taliban-kabul-airport-bombing/index.html

#### Former Syrian ISIS security chief on trial in the Netherlands

https://www.thenationalnews.com/world/2023/04/25/former-syrian-isis-security-chief-on-trial-in-the-netherlands/

# ISIS Goes After Pakistan Army, Taliban Regime In Kabul; Here Is Why Daesh Poses 'Existential Threat' To Both

https://eurasiantimes.com/new-officials-in-af-pak-region-her/

#### U.S. Special Forces Silently Hunting ISIS in Syria

https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/world/u-s-special-forces-silently-hunting-isis-in-syria/ar-AA19X-zo1?li=BBnbcA1

#### Islamic State terrorists extend control over northeastern Mali

https://www.africanews.com/2023/04/14/islamic-state-terrorists-extend-control-over-northeastern-mali/

#### Islamic State Propaganda May Be Paying Off in South India

https://www.geopoliticalmonitor.com/islamic-state-propaganda-may-be-paying-off-in-south-india/

#### ISWAP's use of tech could prolong Lake Chad Basin violence

https://issafrica.org/iss-today/iswaps-use-of-tech-could-prolong-lake-chad-basin-violence

#### Is Islamic State Facing Defeat, Or Starting A Deadly New Phase? – OpEd

https://www.eurasiareview.com/18042023-is-islamic-state-facing-defeat-or-starting-a-deadly-new-phase-oped/

# TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

#### **Ecological Threats and Terrorism across the Sub-Saharan Africa** Mariam Farida – Australian Institute of International Affairs: 21 April 2023

The links between the growth in regional terrorism and ecological crisis are unmistakable. How terrorist groups use ecological threats to recruit new members is less clear.

https://www.internationalaffairs.org.au/australianoutlook/ecological-threats-and-terrorism-across-the-sub-saharan-africa/

#### Cattle raiding by jihadis soars in Mali, fuels conflict

Sam Mednick and Baba Ahmed – The Associated Press: 20 April 2023

Extremists linked to al-Qaida and the Islamic State group are stealing millions of dollars' worth of livestock to fund their insurgency across the war-torn West African country and region known as the Sahel.

https://apnews.com/article/cattle-raiding-mali-jihadi-insurgency-f0ab5344202b07ff36c7bcad-faa88b6e

For more on this theme:

#### Israeli fears grow of united Hezbollah-Hamas-Iran front

https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2023/04/israeli-fears-grow-united-hezbollah-hamas-iran-front

# Lebanon: Hezbollah Warns Rivals Rejecting its Presidential Candidate of 'Major Loss'

https://english.aawsat.com/home/article/4293006/lebanon-hezbollah-warns-rivals-rejecting-its-presidential-candidate-%E2%80%98major-loss

#### **Al-Qaeda Group Claims Deadly Mali Attacks**

https://www.thedefensepost.com/2023/04/25/al-qaeda-group-mali-attacks/

#### Russia's Wagner Group Could Fuel Conflict in Sudan, Experts Say

https://www.voanews.com/a/russia-wagner-group-could-fuel-conflict-in-sudan-experts-say/7067192. html

# Priority Sustainable Counterterrorism: Supporting CSOs to Mitigate the Spread of Terrorism in the Sahel

https://newlinesinstitute.org/countering-violent-extremism/priority-sustainable-counterterrorism-sup-porting-csos-to-migrate-the-spread-of-terrorism-in-the-sahel/

#### Why Europe Should Be More Worried About Illegal Immigration Through Italy

https://eeradicalization.com/why-europe-should-be-more-worried-about-illegal-immigration-through-italy/

#### Terrorists Using Local Language To Spread Propaganda On Facebook

https://humanglemedia.com/terrorists-using-local-language-to-spread-propaganda-on-facebook/

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

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

# CRIME AND CONFLICT

# Amid War, Ukraine Aims to Protect the Rights of a Brutal Foe

James Rupert – United States Institute of Peace: 27 April 2023

To save the laws of war from Russia's assault, we should help Ukraine shield POWs.

https://www.usip.org/publications/2023/04/amid-war-ukraine-aims-protect-rights-brutal-foe

For more on this theme:

#### The Fraudsters: Venezuela's Organized Crime Vultures

https://insightcrime.org/news/the-extortion-scammers-venezuelas-organized-crime-vultures/

#### In Lara, Venezuela, Criminal 'Colectivos' Control Public Services

https://insightcrime.org/news/in-lara-venezuela-criminal-colectivos-control-public-services/

#### 'Where are the weapons?' Life in an Ecuadoran town plagued with drug violence

https://news.yahoo.com/where-weapons-life-ecuadoran-town-210633469.html

# Spring ICAIE Policy Brief: Emerging Transnational Organized Crime Threats in Latin America: Converging Criminalized Markets & Illicit Vectors

https://icaie.com/2023/04/spring-icaie-policy-brief-emerging-transnational-organized-crime-threats-in-latin-america-converging-criminalized-markets-illicit-vectors/

#### IntelBrief: Myanmar's "Forgotten War"

https://thesoufancenter.org/intelbrief-2023-april-20/

#### Multiple murders: a mark of SA's gun and organised crime crisis

https://issafrica.org/iss-today/multiple-murders-a-mark-of-sas-gun-and-organised-crime-crisis

#### Efforts To Rescue Ukrainian Children Kidnapped By Russia Are Underway

https://www.npr.org/2023/04/24/1171632554/efforts-to-rescue-ukrainian-children-kidnapped-by-rus-sia-are-underway

# Rights office calls on Russia and Ukraine to observe rules of war, after alleged POW executions

https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/04/1135982

#### Data company Palantir to help Ukraine prosecute alleged Russian war crimes

https://www.cnbc.com/2023/04/22/data-company-palantir-to-help-ukraine-prosecute-alleged-russian-war-crimes.html

#### The Many Trials of Vladimir Putin?

https://cepa.org/article/the-many-trials-of-vladimir-putin/



# RUSSIA/UKRAINE

# Ukraine's Resilience Is About Winning the War

Judy Dempsey – Carnegie: 25 April 2023

Ukrainians from all walks of life have been resisting Russia's attack. They will not accept any peace deal that denies Ukraine its full independence and territorial integrity. https://carnegieeurope.eu/strategiceurope/89602

For more on this theme:

#### Cyber resilience one year into the Ukraine/Russia conflict

https://www.securitymagazine.com/articles/99238-cyber-resilience-one-year-into-the-ukraine-russia-conflict

#### Heather A. Conley on Coordinating Multinational Support for Ukraine

https://www.gmfus.org/news/heather-conley-coordinating-multinational-support-ukraine

#### What Has North Korea Learned from Russia's Invasion of Ukraine?

https://smallwarsjournal.com/index.php/jrnl/art/what-has-north-korea-learned-russias-invasion-ukraine

#### The Black Sea Grain Deal: Fragile Cooperation Between Ukraine and Russia

https://www.lawfareblog.com/black-sea-grain-deal-fragile-cooperation-between-ukraine-and-russia

#### Gagauzia's Election Could Help Russia Destabilize Moldova

https://carnegieeurope.eu/strategiceurope/89627

## Will the Invasion of Ukraine Change Russia-Africa Relations?

https://carnegieendowment.org/2023/04/26/will-invasion-of-ukraine-change-russia-africa-relations-pub-89596

#### Surviving the War: Russia-Western Balkan Ties After the Invasion of Ukraine

https://carnegieendowment.org/politika/89600

#### Why Russia Won't Disintegrate Along Its Regional Borders

https://carnegieendowment.org/politika/89581

#### India: One of the Biggest Beneficiaries of the War in Ukraine

https://jamestown.org/program/india-one-of-the-biggest-beneficiaries-of-the-war-in-ukraine/

#### Belarus and Its Neighbors in a Time of War: Attitudes, Perceptions and Realities

https://jamestown.org/program/belarus-and-its-neighbors-in-a-time-of-war-attitudes-perceptions-and-realities/

#### Defending Ukraine's Skies: Mission (Im)possible

https://jamestown.org/program/defending-ukraines-skies-mission-impossible/

#### IntelBrief: Trouble Brewing on Russia's Periphery

https://thesoufancenter.org/intelbrief-2023-april-26/

#### IntelBrief: Russia Making Inroads in Africa as the Sahel Spirals Out of Control

https://thesoufancenter.org/intelbrief-2023-april-27/

### RUSSIA/UKRAINE

For more on this theme:

#### **Russian Soldiers and Wagner Mercenaries Start Fighting Each Other: Report**

https://www.newsweek.com/russian-soldiers-wagner-mercenaries-start-fighting-each-other-report-1796146

#### Ukraine War: Are warlords the future of Russia? - analysis

https://www.jpost.com/international/article-741330

#### Russia runs U.N. Security Council as China runs damage control

https://listen.sdpb.org/2023-04-24/latest-on-ukraine-russia-runs-u-n-security-council-as-china-runs-dam-age-control

# How China Could Save Putin's War in Ukraine

https://www.foreignaffairs.com/china/how-china-could-save-putins-war-ukraine

#### Russian ground forces 'bigger today' than at start of the war in Ukraine, US general says

https://www.cnn.com/2023/04/26/politics/russia-forces-ukraine-war-cavoli/index.html

#### Minister: Ukraine will beat Russia in war of technologies

https://apnews.com/article/ukraine-war-drones-technology-fe5dae6a8faba0d46fa829a549592127

#### When and how will Ukraine start counteroffensive against Russia?

https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/4/21/when-and-how-will-ukraine-start-counteroffensive-against-russia

#### Belarusians wary of being drawn into Russia's war in Ukraine

https://www.pbs.org/newshour/world/belarusians-wary-of-being-drawn-into-russias-war-in-ukraine

#### Ukraine's Allies Eye Tightening Exports to Russia

https://www.bloomberg.com/news/newsletters/2023-04-21/ukraine-s-allies-eye-tightening-exports-to-russia

#### Ukraine's millennial minister leads digital fight against Russia

https://thehill.com/policy/defense/3961775-ukraines-millennial-minister-leads-digital-fight-against-russia/

# Exclusive: The Russian military commandant who oversaw reign of fear in Ukraine town

https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/russian-military-commandant-who-oversaw-reign-fear-ukraine-town-2023-04-20/

# Russians Are Weaponizing Passports in Occupied Ukraine — U.K. Intel

https://www.newsweek.com/russia-ukraine-annexed-regions-russian-passports-1796229

# Russia's War in Ukraine Exposes Risks Posed by Private Military Groups

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