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COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

Myanmar’s Aung San Suu Kyi handed five year jail term for corruption
Reuters: 27 April 2022
A court in military-ruled Myanmar has sentenced deposed leader Aung San Suu Kyi to five years in jail after finding her guilty in the first of 11 corruption cases against her, according to a report.

Singapore editor jailed for defamation over corruption claims
Rebecca Ratcliffe – The Guardian: 22 April 2022
Terry Xu was convicted last year after publishing a letter alleging Singapore had “corruption at the highest echelons.”
https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/apr/22/singapore-editor-jailed-defamation-corruption-claims-terry-xu-online-citizen

For more on this theme:
“This Is an Organized Crime Story”: Putin Critic Bill Browder’s New Book on Corruption in Russia Finds New Relevance

Russian tycoon stands against war calling Russia ‘riddled with corruption’

Corruption and War Through the Eyes of Independent Russian Journalists
https://pulitzercenter.org/projects/corruption-and-war-through-eyes-independent-russian-journalists

MPs call for stronger anti-corruption measures as convicts increase
https://www.newtimes.co.rw/news/mps-call-anti-corruption-measures-convicts-increase

Bulgaria faces judicial independence problems, corruption – US State Dept

Corruption in the Western Balkans not abating: What is next?

Impoverished Laos has lost more than $760 million to corruption since 2016: report

US: There's corruption-driven impunity in Nigeria’s DSS, police, military

Xi’s Finance Crackdown Grows as Over 40 Officials Ensnared
DRUG TRAFFICKING

Drug Trafficking, Treatment Get Focus in Biden Opioid Strategy
Ian Lopez – Bloomberg Law: 21 April 2022

U.S. government agencies will prioritize addiction treatment and going after drug traffickers under the White House’s 2022 drug control plan, released as the nation’s overdose deaths near record numbers.


White House Briefing:

White House Releases 2022 National Drug Control Strategy that Outlines Comprehensive Path Forward to Address Addiction and the Overdose Epidemic


For more on this theme:

UK’s Southern Ports Present Secondary Route for Europe Cocaine

Coca Growing, Cocaine Production Reach New Heights in Honduras

Inside India's insidious drug network
https://www.theweek.in/theweek/cover/2022/04/16/inside-india-insidious-drug-network.html

Poppy farmers face uncertain future as Taliban cracks down on opium trade

Captagon: Jordan’s undeclared war against Syria drug traffickers
https://saudigazette.com.sa/article/619492

CONAT, Elite Force Against Narcotrafficking
https://dialogo-americas.com/articles/conat-elite-force-against-narcotrafficking/

Algorithm can track online drug trafficking
https://www.wdtv.com/2022/04/22/algorithm-can-track-online-drug-trafficking/

Police Across Europe Take Down Multi-Tonne Cocaine Trafficking Network

Mexican president confirms closure of counter-narcotics unit working with U.S.

United They Stand, Divided They Fall – Urabeños Losing Grip in Colombia
TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

Illegal Logging in Latin America and Caribbean Inflicting Irreversible Damage
Homeland Security Today: 23 April 2022

Environmental crime is the third-largest form of transnational organized crime in the world. The global illegal timber trade is estimated to be worth up to $152 billion per year, representing nearly half the illicit proceeds of all environmental crime.


Russian sanctions likely to boost illicit gold trade, researchers warn
John Basquill – Global Trade Review: 20 April 2022

Sanctioned Russian entities are likely to turn to illicit gold trading to move funds across international borders, leaving banks at risk if they fail to tighten controls, experts warn.


For more on this theme:

New Stanford Study Provides Targeting Guide for IUU Fishing Vessels

Fishy Business: Report Details Chinese Fleet’s Illegal Operations in West Africa

Illegal wildlife trade through ports threatens conservation

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Unintended Consequences of ‘Fortress Conservation’

As Kenyans farm in forests, incomes rise and deforestation falls
https://news.trust.org/item/20220413155715-t42uh/

New App Can Help End Illegal ‘Tortoiseshell’ Material Trade

New report pieces together toll of environmental damage in Venezuela in 2021

Earth Day: Illegal wildlife trade, deforestation can accelerate planet destruction, says UN
https://www.thecable.ng/earth-day-illegal-wildlife-trade-deforestation-can-accelerate-planet-destruction-says-un
PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

INTERNET GOVERNANCE

US and over 55 other countries commit to democratic internet governance
Brian Fung – CNN: 28 April 2022
More than 55 countries and the United States have announced their commitment to defending a free and open internet, agreeing to uphold digital human rights in response to rising authoritarianism.

For more on this theme:
(Global) Cyberspace and the Future of International Law and Politics
(Japan) Can Japan Take the Lead in Governing Digital Trade?
https://www.tokyoreview.net/2022/04/can-japan-take-the-lead-in-governing-digital-trade/
(Europe) The European Parliament adopted the Data Governance Act
https://esinxchange.com/rv/ff008f033fc73bfba60c761ee043a072bcc4d55a?utm_source=-Mondaq&utm_medium=syndication&utm_campaign=LinkedIn-integration

INTERNET FREEDOM

‘Voices of April’: China’s internet erupts in protest against censorship of Shanghai lockdown video
Nectar Gan – CNN: 25 April 2022
The harsh impact of Shanghai’s nearly monthlong lockdown has plunged the once-bustling international financial hub into a virtual ghost town, causing shortages of food, daily necessities and even medical access for many of its 25 million residents.

For more on this theme:
(Global) How Audiences in Authoritarian Countries Can Bypass Censorship
(Vietnam) Amnesty International blasts new proposed social media regulations in Vietnam
(Global) How China’s Response to COVID-19 Set the Stage for a Worldwide Wave of Censorship
**CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING**

**Middle Eastern CISOs work internationally to tackle security issues**  
Jamila Qadir – CIO: 20 April 2022

Cybercrime is a worldwide problem and countries in the Middle East are increasingly working with international authorities to meet security challenges.


*For more on this theme:*

(New Zealand) New Zealand Industry Leaders Call for Greater Cyber Security Literacy  
https://opengovasia.com/new-zealand-industry-leaders-call-for-greater-cyber-security-literacy/

(U.S.) Fact Sheet: DHS International Cybersecurity Efforts  
https://www.dhs.gov/news/2022/04/21/fact-sheet-dhs-international-cybersecurity-efforts

**CYBER ATTACKS, THREATS AND VULNERABILITIES**

**Cyber attack causes chaos in Costa Rica government systems**  
Javier Córdoba and Christopher Sherman – The Associated Press: 22 April 2022

When a ransomware attack crippled Costa Rican government computer systems, the country refused to pay hackers. Now it struggles to implement workarounds and braces for the publication of stolen information.

https://apnews.com/article/russia-ukraine-technology-business-gangs-costa-rica-9b2fe3c5a1fba7aa7010eade96a086ea

*For more on this theme:*

(Iceland) Icelandic Websites Under Cyber Attack  

(GLOBAL) Russia cyber attack threat to remote working  
https://www.thenationalnews.com/world/uk-news/2022/04/22/russia-cyber-attack-threat-to-remote-working/

(India, Russia) Oil India cyber attack: Russian malware planted from Nigeria  

(GLOBAL) What Does a 5G Cyber-Attack Look Like?  
https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/opinions/what-does-a-5g-cyberattack-look/
Chinese cyber-espionage actors have evolved their operations to closely align with national priorities on economic development and national defense, a recent report revealed.

https://duo.com/decipher/chinese-cyber-espionage-apts-refocus-strategy

For more on this theme:

(India, ASEAN) An ASEAN-India Cybersecurity Partnership for Peace, Progress, and Prosperity: Report of the Third ASEAN-India Track 1.5 Dialogue on Cyber Issues
https://www.orfonline.org/research/asean-india-cybersecurity-partnership-for-peace-progress-and-prosperity/

(Singapore, Indonesia) Singapore, Indonesia Discuss Data Governance, Digitising SMEs
https://opengovasia.com/singapore-indonesia-discuss-data-governance-digitising-smes/


(Iran) In Search of Security: Understanding the Motives Behind Iran’s Cyber-Enabled Influence Campaigns

Punjab Police launches web portal for reporting cyber crime
The Tribune: 25 April 2022

India’s director general of police in Punjab launched a web portal for the convenience of citizens.


For more on this theme:

(Global) Opening Stages in UN Cybercrime Treaty Talks Reflect Human Rights Risks

(Russia, Germany) Russian-affiliates believed to be behind cyber attacks on wind turbines firms
https://www.itpro.co.uk/security/cyber-attacks/367498/russian-affiliates-believed-to-be-behind-cyber-attacks-on-wind

(Russia, Global) Russia-supporting cyber crime gang claims Coca-Cola as victim
New critical infrastructure malware is unlike anything cyber experts have seen

Tom DiChristopher – S&P Global: 27 April 2022

Newly discovered malware capable of disrupting critical infrastructure incorporates know-how from high-profile energy-sector cyberattacks and is a formidable threat, according to cybersecurity firm Dragos.


For more on this theme:

(U.S., Russia) Biden’s options if Russia hacks U.S. infrastructure

(U.S., Global) How to reduce the risk of cyber-attacks on government organisations’ physical security systems

(India) India sees 70% spike in ransomware attacks on critical infrastructure
PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

ISIS AND FOREIGN FIGHTERS

‘We found nothing:’ Thousands of IS victims still missing
Bassem Mroue – The Associated Press: 21 April 2022
Three years after the territorial defeat of ISIS, thousands of people are missing and accountability for their captors remains elusive. Families feel abandoned as they struggle to uncover the fate of their loved ones.
https://apnews.com/article/islamic-state-group-middle-east-syria-iraq-482f48e2ff26334f-6d873701675e0c92

ISIS Can’t Even Direct Lone-Wolf Attacks Anymore
Anchal Vohra – Foreign Policy: 26 April 2022
ISIS is hoping for a resurgence while the West is distracted in Ukraine.
https://foreignpolicy.com/2022/04/26/the-islamic-state-cant-even-pull-off-lone-wolf-attacks-anymore/

For more on this theme:
Taliban’s Dilemmas
Top ISIS Leader, Ammar Bin-Umar Killed In Lake Chad
Indonesia police report plot by Islamic militant group to overthrow govt
Islamic State escalates attacks in Syrian desert
https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2022/04/islamic-state-escalates-attacks-syrian-desert
Islamic State announces ‘revenge’ attacks during Ramadan
https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2022/04/islamic-state-announces-revenge-attacks-during-rama-
dan
Afghan Islamic State group claims series of bombings targeting Shiites
Iran’s Worst Fears in Afghanistan Are Coming True as ISIS Tests Red Line
In lawsuit against Google involving ISIS recruitment videos, a chance for the court
to take up Section 230
https://www.scotusblog.com/2022/04/in-lawsuit-against-google-involving-isis-recruitment-videos-a-
chance-for-the-court-to-take-up-section-230/
Afghanistan: Dramatic Increase Of Islamic State-KP Activity – Analysis
https://www.eurasiareview.com/26042022-afghanistan-dramatic-increase-of-islamic-state-kp-activi-
ty-analysis/
Non-State-Led Proxy Warfare: The Missing Link in the Proxy Wars Debate
Tarik Solmaz – Small Wars Journal: 21 April 2022
Conflicts in the early 21st century have been dominated by proxy wars. Most scholars consider proxy warfare as a method employed by states. However, nonstate actors are now raising and training their own proxies.

Hunger grips Burkina Faso due to increasing jihadi violence
Sam Mednick – The Associated Press: 26 April 2022
Hunger is soaring across Burkina Faso, a result of increasing jihadi violence that has killed thousands, displaced millions and prevented people from farming.

For more on this theme:
Somalia may take many years to clear land mines placed to fight Al-Shabaab

Failure to learn from our Boko Haram experience
https://www.vanguardngr.com/2022/04/failure-to-learn-from-our-boko-haram-experience/

Lebanese female candidates stand up to Hezbollah, are disowned by families
https://www.arabnews.com/node/2064046/middle-east

Lebanese Hezbollah MP says ‘resistance’ needs $9 billion to wipe out Israel
https://english.alaraby.co.uk/news/hezbollah-mp-says-9-billion-needed-wipe-out-israel

Women and Journalists Are Targets of Violence in Taliban-Ruled Afghanistan, Report Says
https://theintercept.com/2022/04/14/afghanistan-taliban-violence-women-journalists/

The Taliban’s Trajectory in Securing Geographic, Electronic, and Geopolitical Sanctuaries

ISWAP Kills Top Boko Haram Commander, Mohammed Reejal

More than 160 passengers still missing from train attacked in Nigeria

Al-Qaida-linked group in Mali says it has captured Russians
https://apnews.com/article/russia-ukraine-europe-africa-mali-al-qaida-2f2ab1e86bd64f4ab-34ce9291d69dea
RADICALIZATION

**Prison terrorism: Warnings over failure to stop radicalisation**
Daniel Sandford – BBC: 27 April 2022

The prison service has failed to recognize the dangers Islamist gangs and convicted terrorists pose inside jail, a report warns.


For more on this theme:

**Rohingya Militant Group Targeting Malaysia-Based Refugees with Online Campaign**
https://thediplomat.com/2022/04/rohingya-militant-group-targeting-malaysia-based-refugees-with-online-campaign/

**Tunisia, France unite to protect youth against ‘violent extremism’**

**State Targeted Violence Prevention: Programming & Key Performance Indicators**
https://www.nga.org/center/publications/state-targeted-violence-prevention-programming-key-performance-indicators/

CONFLICT AND CRIME

**The rise of mercenary armies in Africa**
Antonio Cascais and Reliou Koubakin – Deutsche Welle: 15 April 2022

More African countries are turning to foreign security companies to protect leaders or to deploy in conflict zones. However, criticism of mercenaries — who some accuse of impunity — is growing louder.


For more on this theme:

**Quibdó: The New Epicenter of Violence in Northwestern Colombia**

**On the Front Lines of the Hot Land: Mexico’s Incessant Conflict**
https://facesofconflict.crisisgroup.org/on-the-front-lines-of-the-hot-land-mexicos-incessant-conflict/

**Assessing Resilience to Organized Crime at the Community Level**
https://globalinitiative.net/analysis/resilience-organized-crime-communities-kenya-mozambique/

**The Role of the Environmental War Crime in the Russian Invasion of Ukraine**
https://www.jurist.org/commentary/2022/04/elliot-winter-ukraine-conflict-environmental-war-crime/

**CAR war crimes trial postponed for second time**

**Legal Frameworks for Assessing the Use of Starvation in Ukraine**
RUSSIA/UKRAINE

Forcible Transfer of Children in Ukraine: An Element of Genocide?
Laurie R. Blank – Jurist: 21 April 2022

In March, Ukrainian authorities reported that Russian forces had forcibly transferred more than 2,000 children from Donbas to Russia. Ukraine’s human rights commissioner has asserted more than 121,000 Ukrainian children have been taken to Russia, where the government is reportedly preparing to “fast-track” Russian adoptions of stolen children.

For more on this theme:
Harnessing tech in fight to prove war crimes in Ukraine conflict

A Ceasefire Is Not Peace: Defining Defeat and Victory in Ukraine

Nuclear Escalation and Russian Propaganda: Conjuring a Crisis
https://jamestown.org/program/nuclear-escalation-and-russian-propaganda-conjuring-a-crisis/

Assessing the Risks of Nuclear Confrontation Over Ukraine (Part One)
https://jamestown.org/program/assessing-the-risks-of-nuclear-confrontation-over-ukraine-part-one/

Assessing the Risks of Nuclear Confrontation Over Ukraine (Part Two)
https://jamestown.org/program/assessing-the-risks-of-nuclear-confrontation-over-ukraine-part-two/

Russia shifts tactics, steps up pace of assault in Ukraine’s east and south

Russia Crisis Military Assessment: The race to resupply Ukraine

Russia’s war in Ukraine threatens to spill over in dangerous new phase
https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/apr/26/russias-war-in-ukraine-threatens-to-spill-over-in-dangerous-new-phase

One day, Russia’s Ukraine invasion will be over — what will happen next?

Foreign investors are ditching China. Russia’s war is the latest trigger

Russia’s Military Has a Railroad Problem
https://foreignpolicy.com/2022/04/21/russias-military-has-a-railroad-problem/
RUSSIA/UKRAINE

No Feasible End-Game for Russia in Badly Mismanaged War
Pavel K. Baev – The Jamestown Foundation: 25 April 2022

The Russian mismanagement of its Ukraine invasion is as damaging for the struggling Russian economy as the persistent demands to deliver a convincing victory are for the execution of the military campaign. The two initial blunders of Putin’s judgment — that the Ukrainian state would break under the military assault and the West would enforce only symbolic sanctions — drive Russia along parallel tracks toward an unwinnable war and economic degradation.

https://jamestown.org/program/no-feasible-end-game-for-russia-in-badly-mismanaged-war/

For more on this theme:

Trained Russian Navy Dolphins are Protecting Black Sea Naval Base, Satellite Photos Show

Analysis: As Russia faces potential default, investors weigh legal options

Analysts Assess Impact of Russia-Ukraine War on Food Security in Azerbaijan

India’s Russian oil purchases since Ukraine invasion more than double 2021 total

Russia using cluster bombs to kill Ukrainian civilians, analysis suggests
https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/apr/21/russia-using-banned-weapons-to-kill-ukrainian-civilians-pictures-suggest

A Tale of Two Bears: Russian Experience in Syria and Ukraine

Social Media and the War in Ukraine: The Walter Report

Some Clausewitzian Thoughts on the Ukrainian Defense
https://mwi.usma.edu/some-clausewitzian-thoughts-on-the-ukrainian-defense/

Ukraine/Russia: As War Continues, Africa Food Crisis Looms

Vicious Blame Game Erupts Among Putin’s Security Forces

Putin’s Fundamental War Crime
https://cepa.org/putins-fundamental-war-crime/
RUSSIA/UKRAINE

**War in Ukraine spurs bid to take a closer look at UN vetoes**
Jennifer Peltz – The Associated Press; 21 April 2022

Two days into Russia’s attack on Ukraine, a majority of U.N. Security Council members voted to demand that Moscow withdraw. One thing stood in their way: a veto by Russia itself.

https://apnews.com/article/russia-ukraine-united-nations-general-assembly-business-europe-states-3e1560d3b38bc0110d65fe388a6ea4ad

For more on this theme:
- **Russia’s Invasion Of Ukraine And The Crisis Of International Law – Analysis**
- **AI Is Already Learning from Russia’s War in Ukraine, DOD Says**
- **The Russo-Ukrainian War at Sea: Retrospect and Prospect**
- **Ukraine’s Military Advantage and Russia’s Stark Choices**
- **From Ukraine and Beyond: Unpacking the Sino-Russian Relationship**
- **Roots of the Resistance: Understanding National Identity in Ukraine**
- **Explaining Latin America’s Contradictory Reactions to the War in Ukraine**
- **Putin the Planner**
  https://warontherocks.com/2022/04/putin-the-planner/
- **The Putinomics Playbook Won’t Work Forever**
  https://warontherocks.com/2022/04/the-putinomics-playbook-wont-work-forever/
- **World Bank warns of stagflation due to Russia’s Ukraine invasion**
- **Arctic Council In The Midst Of Ukraine Crisis – Analysis**
- **War In Ukraine And Rising Energy Costs Risk Hampering Asia’s Decarbonization Efforts**
- **Russia’s war on Ukraine making life difficult for Russian cybercriminals**
  https://www.cyberscoop.com/hydra-cryptocurrency-exchange-russia-ukraine-cybercrime/
RUSSIA/UKRAINE

Cyber Signaling and Nuclear Deterrence: Implications for the Ukraine Crisis
Erica Lonergan and Keren Yarhi-Milo – War on the Rocks: 21 April 2022

From its opening moments, the conflict in Ukraine has involved a nuclear dimension. On February 24, Russian President Vladimir Putin ominously warned of “consequences you have never seen” if other countries tried to get involved in Ukraine — an implied nuclear threat. Several days later, Putin announced that Russia’s nuclear forces would be put on “special combat readiness.”


For more on this theme:
First Ukraine, Now Moldova? Is The Kremlin About To Expand Its War?
https://www.rferl.org/a/russia-ukraine-war-moldova-transdniester/31823947.html

Water Emerges As Weapon Of War In Ukraine And Beyond

Ballistic missiles won't make the difference in the Donbas — drones will
https://www.politico.eu/article/ballistic-missiles-drones-donbas-war-ukraine-russia/

Food Prices, Elections, and the Wagner Group in Africa

War In Ukraine Is Serious Setback To Europe’s Economic Recovery

Why China Wants Yuan As Reference Currency For Rupee-Ruble Rate

The war in Ukraine is driving hunger in Lebanon

Redesigning Security Architecture In A Post-Invasion World

Many Ukrainians aren't optimistic about peace with Russia