# THE MARSHALL CENTER

# transnational Weekly



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# COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

### CORRUPTION

# In Chile and Elsewhere, Crime Is the New Corruption

Brian Winter - America's Quarterly: 8 May 2023

Chile's election shows how violent crime, fueled largely by increased cocaine production and trafficking, is dominating the political debate throughout much of Latin America, writes AQ's editor-in-chief.

https://www.americasquarterly.org/article/in-chile-and-elsewhere-crime-is-the-new-corruption/

# The Cost of Crime and Corruption for Pacific Fisheries

Jade Lindley - The Interpreter: 4 May 2023

Despite efforts to raise awareness of illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, the recent case involving alleged corruption in the mackerel fishing industry of Vanuatu highlights the need to continue the conversation and limit opportunities for such unsustainable practices.

https://www.lowyinstitute.org/the-interpreter/cost-crime-corruption-pacific-fisheries

#### For more on this theme:

#### Ukraine's Anti-Corruption Prosecutor's Office Detains Mayor Of Odesa

https://www.rferl.org/a/ukraine-odesa-mayor-trukhanov-corruption-detained/32395093.html

### Lebanon legal council dismisses judge investigating corruption

https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/lebanon-legal-council-dismisses-judge-investigating-corruption-2023-05-04/

#### Stamping out corruption can give SDGs \$3 trillion boost

https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/05/1136282

### Omar Harfouch, the man who shakes the corrupt Lebanese elite

https://www.jpost.com/special-content/omar-harfouch-the-man-who-shakes-the-corrupt-lebanese-elite-741948

#### Nigeria: Will Tinubu prioritise war on corruption despite claims against him?

https://www.theafricareport.com/305758/will-nigerias-president-elect-tinubu-pursue-a-war-on-corruption-despite-allegations-against-him/

### Corruption Suspicions About Energy Corporation's Director Cause Turmoil in Kosovo

https://balkaninsight.com/2023/05/01/corruption-suspicions-about-energy-corporations-director-cause-tur-moil-in-kosovo/

## With little will to fight it, corruption is major risk for Indonesian palm oil

https://news.mongabay.com/2023/05/with-little-will-to-fight-it-corruption-is-major-risk-for-indonesian-palmoil/

#### How corruption impedes electricity supply in Nigeria — NSE ex-president

https://www.blueprint.ng/how-corruption-impedes-electricity-supply-in-nigeria-nse-ex-president/

# DRUG TRAFFICKING

Europe: Drug trafficking, organized crime increasing by "an order of magnitude" Interpol: 8 May 2023

Strengthening international police cooperation to counter the rapidly escalating threat posed by organized crime networks was the key focus of Interpol's 50th European Regional Conference.

https://www.interpol.int/fr/Actualites-et-evenements/Actualites/2023/Europe-Drug-trafficking-organized-crime-increasing-by-an-order-of-magnitude

# Precursors and Mexico's Synthetic Drug Trade: Summary and Major Findings Steven Dudley – InSight Crime: 8 May 2023

Synthetic drugs have changed organized crime. As opposed to most legacy drugs that rely on plants, harvests, favorable weather, significant and varied manual labor, and transport of bulk amounts of illicit substances across heavily policed terrain, synthetic drugs can be produced in laboratories year-round.

https://insightcrime.org/investigations/chemical-precursors-mexico-synthetic-drug-trade/

#### For more on this theme:

# El Chapo's son, Sinaloa members face sanctions over fentanyl

https://apnews.com/article/mexico-biden-el-chapo-treasury-sanctions-fentanyl-1b253e0e95e6f0e0eaf-5e153aca4cb66

#### New data reveals record amounts of cocaine and ketamine seized

https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-data-reveals-record-amounts-of-cocaine-and-ketamine-seized

# Rising Drug Use in South Korea Forces Government to Respond, Adapt

https://www.asiapacific.ca/publication/rising-drug-use-south-korea-forces-government-respond-adapt

# Bling on the block: France sells off drug dealers' luxury goods

https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/bling-on-the-block-france-sells-off-drug-dealers-luxury-goods-aih36718m

# DEA on Los Chapitos: 'The Sinaloa Cartel has never been more powerful or made more money'

 $https://english.elpais.com/international/2023-05-03/dea-on-los-chapitos-the-sinaloa-cartel-has-never-been-more-powerful-or-made-more-money. \\ html$ 

### Drug gangs on Teesside 'branding' children to show ownership

https://www.itv.com/news/tyne-tees/2023-05-02/drug-gangs-branding-children-to-show-ownership-amid-rising-brutality

### 'Port Security Corps' brought in to boost fight against drug trafficking

https://www.brusselstimes.com/494747/new-port-security-corps-brought-in-to-boost-fight-against-drug-trafficking

#### Jordan strikes Iran-linked drugs factory in southern Syria - sources

https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/jordan-strikes-iran-linked-drugs-factory-southern-syria-sources-2023-05-08/

#### TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

# Corruption threatens timber traceability in Nkok, Gabon

Elodie Toto - Mongabay: 10 May 2023

Timber processed in Gabon's Nkok Special Investment Zone is required to be harvested in line with European Union certifications for sustainability. However, TraCer, the monitoring system meant to ensure the traceability of wood, was recently suspended by the country's Ministry of Water and Forests.

https://news.mongabay.com/2023/05/corruption-threatens-timber-traceability-in-nkok-gabon/

# Researchers investigate dark web wildlife trade

British Ecological Society: 4 May 2023

A huge amount of wildlife trade takes place on the internet. Online marketplaces, private forums and messaging apps make it easy to buy and sell live animals, plants and fungi.

https://phys.org/news/2023-05-dark-web-wildlife.html

For more on this theme:

# In a Bolivian protected area torn up for gold, focus is on limiting damage

https://news.mongabay.com/2023/05/in-a-bolivian-protected-area-torn-up-for-gold-focus-is-on-limiting-damage/

# Illicit Activity in Chile's Timber Sector

https://gfintegrity.org/illicit-activity-in-chiles-timber-sector/

### Barclays toughens deforestation rules for beef sector clients

https://www.reuters.com/business/sustainable-business/barclays-toughens-deforestation-rules-beef-sector-clients-2023-05-03/

# Wild-caught seafood is often untraceable — and some industry players don't want that to change. Here's why

https://the conversation.com/wild-caught-seafood-is-often-untraceable-and-some-industry-players-dontwant-that-to-change-heres-why-204195

### **Detecting Illegal Mines in Senegal**

https://www.dw.com/en/detecting-illegal-mines-in-senegal/video-65452845

#### Maduro and Organized Crime Harm Venezuela's Nature Reserves

https://dialogo-americas.com/articles/maduro-and-organized-crime-harm-venezuelas-nature-reserves/

### Guatemala national park nearing 'collapse' amid land grabbing, deforestation

https://news.mongabay.com/2023/05/guatemala-national-park-nearing-collapse-amid-land-grabbing-deforestation/

#### Wildlife Trafficking Gradually Returns After Pandemic Lull, Mostly by Sea

https://goodmenproject.com/featured-content/wildlife-trafficking-gradually-returns-after-pandemic-lull-mostly-by-sea/

### Philippines a global hotspot for giant clams — and their illegal trade

https://news.mongabay.com/2023/05/philippines-a-global-hotspot-for-giant-clams-and-their-illegal-trade/

# PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

#### INTERNET GOVERNANCE

Pakistan remains among world's worst performers in terms of internet access, digital governance: report

Dawn: 8 May 2023

The report, "Pakistan's Internet Landscape 2022," was released by Bytes For All, a human rights and advocacy organization.

https://www.dawn.com/news/1751606/pakistan-remains-among-worlds-worst-performers-in-terms-of-in-ternet-access-digital-governance-report

For more on this theme:

# (Brazil) In Brazil, Platform Regulation Takes Center Stage

https://techpolicy.press/in-brazil-platform-regulation-takes-center-stage/

# (Global) Declaration for the Future of the Internet

https://www.gmfus.org/news/declaration-future-internet

### (Global) 'Responsible Al': ChatGPT bot gets ethical nod from G7 digital ministers

https://interestingengineering.com/culture/chatgpt-gets-ethical-nod-from-g7

#### INTERNET FREEDOM

### Sudan's Cyber War

Olatunji Olaigbe – Inkstick: 4 May 2023

Beneath the visible physical fighting, another war is raging online.

https://inkstickmedia.com/sudans-cyber-war/

For more on this theme:

# (China) China's Answers to ChatGPT Have a Censorship Problem

https://www.bloomberg.com/news/newsletters/2023-05-02/china-s-chatgpt-answers-raise-questions-about-censoring-generative-ai

# (Russia, China) Leaked Document Shows How Russia, China Collaborate on Censorship

https://dialogo-americas.com/articles/leaked-document-shows-how-russia-china-collaborate-on-censor-shin/

# (Kazakhstan) Internet Monitor Says Kazakhstan 'Throttling' RFE/RL Sites To Limit Access To Information

https://www.rferl.org/a/kazakhstan-rferl-internet-throttling-ooni/32383892.html

(Sudan) Sudan: Internet shutdowns fuel human rights abuses

https://ifex.org/sudan-internet-shutdowns-fuel-human-rights-abuses/

#### CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING

# Internet access reduces poverty — report

The Star: 28 April 2023

The continent's growing population is projected to become the world's largest by 2100, with more than 22 million Africans joining the workforce annually. While this growth is often considered a threat to Africa's socioeconomic well-being, a report shows it could be advantageous for the continent.

https://www.the-star.co.ke/sasa/lifestyle/2023-04-28-internet-access-reduces--poverty--report/

#### For more on this theme:

# (Ukraine) Ukraine building critical infrastructure protection system

https://www.ukrinform.net/rubric-ato/3699448-ukraine-building-critical-infrastructure-protection-system.

# (U.K.) New GovAssure cyber regime launches across UK government

https://www.computerweekly.com/news/365535542/New-GovAssure-cyber-regime-launches-across-UK-government

# (Switzerland, EU) Switzerland considers joining EU's military mobility, cyber defence projects

https://www.euractiv.com/section/defence-and-security/news/switzerland-considers-joining-eus-military-mobility-cyberdefence-projects/

### CYBER STRATEGY AND RISKS

# The key to making the US cyber strategy work: boots on the ground

Sarah Powazek and Marc Rogers - CyberScoop: 4 May 2023

Prioritizing work with academic institutions, localities and skilled volunteers is the best way of advancing America's cybersecurity needs.

https://cyberscoop.com/us-cyber-strategy-local-cybersecurity-volunteers/

## For more on this theme:

# (Global) Cybercom Commander Says Partnerships Are Key to Success in Challenging Strategic Environment

https://www.defense.gov/News/News-Stories/Article/Article/3381509/cybercom-commander-says-partner-ships-are-key-to-success-in-challenging-strategi/

### (U.S.) Building Cyber Resiliency in the U.S. Government

https://www.nextgov.com/ideas/2023/05/building-cyber-resiliency-us-government/385777/

# (Australia) Australia's National Quantum Strategy

https://australiancybersecuritymagazine.com.au/australias-national-quantum-strategy/

# (Europe) Why European Space Cybersecurity Matters

https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/opinions/european-space-cybersecurity/

#### **CYBERATTACKS**

#### NSA and Allies Uncover Russian Snake Malware Network in 50+ Countries

Alessandro Mascellino - InfoSecurity: 10 May 2023

The United States National Security Agency and international partner agencies have discovered infrastructure connected with the sophisticated Russian cyber espionage tool Snake in more than 50 countries.

https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/news/nsa-uncovers-russian-snake-malware/

#### For more on this theme:

### (Iran) Iran is diving into the disinformation wars, Microsoft says

https://www.axios.com/2023/05/02/iran-disinformation-wars-microsoft

## (Russia, U.S.) Five Takeaways From the Russian Cyber-Attack on Viasat's Satellites

https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/news/takeaways-russian-cyberattack/

### (U.S.) Western Digital's online store still closed six weeks after cyberattack

https://blocksandfiles.com/2023/05/08/western-digitals-online-store-still-closed-six-weeks-after-cyber-attack/

### CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION

# A cancer centre is the latest victim of cyber attacks. Why health data hacks keep happening

Mohiuddin Ahmed and Paul Haskell-Dowland - The Conversation: 7 May 2023

It seems hardly a day goes by without another report of a cybercrime incident. The latest attack is on a cancer treatment facility in Sydney, Australia.

https://the conversation.com/a-cancer-centre-is-the-latest-victim-of-cyber-attacks-why-health-data-hacks-keep-happening-205131

#### For more on this theme:

# (China, Global) China's undersea cable plan targets US and British intelligence

https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2023/05/09/china-undersea-cable-us-intelligence-nsa-gc-hq-five-eyes/

# (U.S.) Cracks, hacks, attacks: California's vulnerable water system faces many threats

https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2023-05-08/is-californias-water-infrastructure-at-risk-of-attack

# (U.S.) The Attack on Colonial Pipeline: What We've Learned & What We've Done Over the Past Two Years

https://www.cisa.gov/news-events/news/attack-colonial-pipeline-what-weve-learned-what-weve-done-over-past-two-years

# PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

#### ISIS AND FOREIGN FIGHTERS

# How northern Syria became a cage for the Islamic State's core

Kabir Taneja – Observer Research Foundation: 4 May 2023

Is the terrorist group a mere shadow of what it was, or is it still a potent force?

https://www.orfonline.org/expert-speak/how-northern-syria-became-a-cage-for-the-islamic-states-core/

# Islamic State: Hundreds of women on hunger strike at Iraqi prison

Murad Shishani & Nick Sturdee - BBC: 6 May 2023

At least 400 women are in the second week of a hunger strike in a high-security prison in Iraq's capital, Baghdad.

https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-65498377

For more on this theme:

# ISIS claims responsibility for deadly Damascus car blast

https://www.rudaw.net/english/middleeast/syria/11052023

# Islamic State group extends its predation in the Sahel

https://www.africanews.com/2023/04/21/islamic-state-group-extends-its-predation-in-the-sahel/

# Analysis: Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb encourages its Sahelian wing to continue fighting the Islamic State

https://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2023/04/analysis-al-qaeda-in-the-islamic-maghreb-encourages-its-sahelian-wing-to-continue-fighting-the-islamic-state.php

### US Pushing Countries to Repatriate IS Foreign Fighters Held in NE Syria

https://www.voanews.com/a/us-pushing-countries-to-repatriate-is-foreign-fighters-held-in-northeast-syria-/7059270.html

### ISIS recruitment in India sees spike

https://www.dailypioneer.com/2023/india/isis-recruitment-in-india-sees-spike.html

### Brief: ISGS on Verge of Victory in Menaka, Mali

https://jamestown.org/program/brief-isgs-on-verge-of-victory-in-menaka-mali/

### ISIS eyeing techies from India: Intel

https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/nation/isis-eyeing-techies-from-india-intel-505774

# Exclusive: Israel seized Binance crypto accounts to 'thwart' Islamic State, document shows

https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/israel-seized-binance-crypto-accounts-thwart-islamic-state-document-shows-2023-05-04/

### Bollywood film on Islamic State recruits sparks debate in India

https://www.reuters.com/world/india/bollywood-film-islamic-state-recruits-sparks-debate-india-2023-05-09/

### TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

# Russia's Wagner mercenaries to be labelled terror group like Islamic State

Nina Lloyd - Telegraph: 10 May 2023

The United Kingdom is preparing to make it a criminal offense to join the Wagner Group, encourage support for it, display its logo in public or attend its meetings.

https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/wagner-group-uk-proscribed-terrorist-organisation-b2336006.html

## Peru's Missed Opportunity Against Hezbollah

Joseph Humire - The Heritage Foundation: 5 May 2023

A misguided court ruling may lead to a resurgence of terrorism in Peru.

https://www.heritage.org/americas/commentary/perus-missed-opportunity-against-hezbollah

### For more on this theme:

# Understanding Boko Haram: Origins, current status and why India should care

https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/understanding-boko-haram-origins-current-status-and-why-india-should-care/articleshow/99783935.cms?from=mdr

# Time to re-assess terrorism prevention in Africa?

https://issafrica.org/iss-today/time-to-re-assess-terrorism-prevention-in-africa

# UN chief says 'not the right time' to engage with Taliban

https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/5/2/un-chief-says-not-the-right-time-to-engage-with-taliban

## Can Somalia's New President Finally Stop al-Shabaab?

https://jamestown.org/program/can-somalias-new-president-finally-stop-al-shabaab/

# Hayat Tahrir al-Sham's Top-Down Disassociation from al-Qaeda in Syria

https://jamestown.org/program/hayat-tahrir-al-shams-top-down-disassociation-from-al-qaeda-in-syria/

# Brief: Al-Qaeda Affiliates AQIM and AQAP Show Unity with Eid Statement

https://jamestown.org/program/brief-al-qaeda-affiliates-aqim-and-aqap-show-unity-with-eid-statement/

# Western countries pile pressure on Mali over Wagner presence

https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/5/3/western-countries-pile-pressure-on-mali-over-wagner-presence

# Why Boko Haram is Losing Ground in Nigeria

https://eeradicalization.com/why-boko-haram-is-losing-ground-in-nigeria/

# TTP And ISKP - OpEd

https://www.eurasiareview.com/30042023-ttp-and-iskp-oped/

#### The Development of Tehreek-E-Taliban Pakistan and Their Plans for the Future

https://moderndiplomacy.eu/2023/04/30/the-development-of-tehreek-e-taliban-pakistan-and-their-plans-for-the-future/

#### RUSSIA/UKRAINE

# The Fallacy of Negotiating With Putin

Boris Bondarev – Jamestown Foundation: 10 May 2023

Repeated reports alleging the growing desire of the West to push Ukraine into peace talks with Russia provide an opportunity to consider how such talks would actually play out.

https://jamestown.org/program/the-fallacy-of-negotiating-with-putin/

#### For more on this theme:

#### How the war in Ukraine has been a catalyst in private-public collaborations

https://www.welivesecurity.com/2023/05/09/how-war-ukraine-catalyst-private-public-collaborations/

# **Drones will not win the Russia-Ukraine war – analysis**

https://www.jpost.com/international/article-742179

# False flag? Analysts say Russia 'likely staged' Kremlin drone attack it blamed on **Ukraine and the West**

https://www.cnbc.com/2023/05/04/did-russia-stage-the-kremlin-drone-attack-it-blamed-on-ukraine-. html

### Russia's last red line: Will the West help Ukraine liberate Crimea?

https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/ukrainealert/russias-last-red-line-will-the-west-help-ukraine-liber-

# Deciphering Vladimir Putin's unspoken Victory Day message

https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/ukrainealert/deciphering-vladimir-putins-unspoken-victory-day-message/

# Putin's embarrassing one-tank parade hints at catastrophic losses in Ukraine

https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/ukrainealert/putins-embarrassing-one-tank-parade-hints-at-catastrophic-losses-in-ukraine/

## **Can the Russian Opposition Foment Regime Change?**

https://jamestown.org/program/can-the-russian-opposition-foment-regime-change/

# Muted V-Day Celebrations in Russia Amid Disastrous War

https://jamestown.org/program/muted-v-day-celebrations-in-russia-amid-disastrous-war/

# Baku's Cooperation With West on Ukraine Leaves Moscow With Few Options

https://jamestown.org/program/bakus-cooperation-with-west-on-ukraine-leaves-moscow-with-few-options/

## **Putin's Missile War**

https://www.csis.org/analysis/putins-missile-war

# Red-Team Analysis Of Russia's Defensive Combat Strategy

https://www.eurasiareview.com/09052023-red-team-analysis-of-russias-defensive-combat-strategy/

# **How Sanctions Have Changed Russian Economic Policy**

https://carnegieendowment.org/politika/89708

## RUSSIA/UKRAINE

For more on this theme:

# How Russia Torpedoed Its Own Influence in Moldova

https://carnegieendowment.org/politika/89731

# **Unpacking Ukraine's New IMF Program**

https://carnegieendowment.org/2023/05/05/unpacking-ukraine-s-new-imf-program-pub-89691

# For Ambitious Russian Officials, the War Has Failed to Become a Career Elevator

https://carnegieendowment.org/politika/89696

## Americans Hold Positive Feelings Toward NATO and Ukraine, See Russia as an Enemy

https://www.pewresearch.org/global/2023/05/10/americans-hold-positive-feelings-toward-nato-and-ukraine-https://www.pewresearch.org/global/2023/05/10/americans-hold-positive-feelings-toward-nato-and-ukraine-https://www.pewresearch.org/global/2023/05/10/americans-hold-positive-feelings-toward-nato-and-ukraine-https://www.pewresearch.org/global/2023/05/10/americans-hold-positive-feelings-toward-nato-and-ukraine-https://www.pewresearch.org/global/2023/05/10/americans-hold-positive-feelings-toward-nato-and-ukraine-https://www.pewresearch.org/global/2023/05/10/americans-hold-positive-feelings-toward-nato-and-ukraine-https://www.pewresearch.org/global/2023/05/10/americans-hold-positive-feelings-toward-nato-and-ukraine-https://www.pewresearch.org/global/2023/05/10/americans-hold-positive-feelings-toward-nato-and-ukraine-https://www.pewresearch.org/global/2023/05/10/americans-hold-positive-feelings-toward-nato-and-ukraine-https://www.pewresearch.org/global/2023/05/10/americans-hold-positive-feelings-holdsee-russia-as-an-enemy/

#### India's Russia oil imports jumped tenfold in 2022, bank says

https://www.bbc.com/news/business-65553920

#### Where Countries Stand on Russia

https://www.statista.com/chart/29915/global-stance-on-russia/

# Central and Eastern Europe Are Playing Catchup on Russian Disinformation

https://www.worldpoliticsreview.com/russia-information-proaganda-sputnik-news-ukraine-war-putin/

# Kremlin Schemes Against Baltics: Lots of Delusion, Some Risk

https://cepa.org/article/kremlin-schemes-against-baltics-lots-of-delusion-some-risk/

### What Happened to Russian Hybrid War?

https://cepa.org/article/what-happened-to-russian-hybrid-war/

#### Remembrance of a Stolen Crimea

https://cepa.org/article/remembrance-of-a-stolen-crimea/

# The Black Sea Grain Initiative and the Law of Treaties: A Response

https://www.lawfareblog.com/black-sea-grain-initiative-and-law-treaties-response

#### Russia's Wagner boss threatens Bakhmut pullout in Ukraine

https://apnews.com/article/russia-ukraine-war-wagner-bakhmut-40eea0f86be16a77830c369acd0a9d9f

# Keeping the lights on: The EU's energy relationships since Russia's invasion of Ukraine

https://ecfr.eu/publication/keeping-the-lights-on-the-eus-energy-relationships-since-russias-invasion-of-

#### Francis Fukuyama: It Would Be Hard For Putin To Survive Losing Crimea

https://www.rferl.org/a/fukuyama-interview-russia-ukraine-crimea-putin/32399499.html

# Russia staging protests for anti-Ukraine propaganda — report

https://www.dw.com/en/russia-staging-protests-for-anti-ukraine-propaganda-report/a-65544741

# Title: Autocephaly, Geopolitics, and Russia's Invasion of Ukraine

https://gjia.georgetown.edu/2023/05/08/autocephaly-geopolitics-and-russias-invasion-of-ukraine/