CONTENTS

COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)
- Corruption
- Drug Trafficking
- Trafficking in Scarce or Protected Resources

PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)
- Internet Governance
- Internet Freedom
- Cyber Capacity Building
- Cyber Strategy and Risks
- Cyberattacks
- Critical Infrastructure Protection

PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)
- ISIS and Foreign Fighters
- Terrorism Around the World
- Russia/Ukraine

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

**Perspectives: Artificial intelligence boosts anti-corruption efforts in Armenia**
*Eurasianet: 12 May 2023*

The chair of Armenia’s Corruption Prevention Commission says artificial intelligence is helping agency representatives combat corruption and “hold themselves and other sections of government accountable to the citizens they serve.”


**How China uses ‘geostrategic corruption’ to exert its influence in Latin America**
*Eduardo Gamarra and Valeria Popova – The Conversation: 17 May 2023*

Traditionally, it has funneled down domestic routes, with local politicians, business interests and drug lords benefiting from graft and dodgy dealings. But over the past two decades, a new form of corruption has taken hold in Latin American countries.


*For more on this theme:*

**The Abdukadyr Family Made A Fortune In Collusion With Corrupt Central Asian Officials. Now They’ve Built A Global Business Empire.**

**Venezuela’s New Asset Forfeiture Law Unlikely to End Corruption**

**Rampant Corruption at Energy Provider Drags Down South Africa**

**Indonesia has lost its way on corruption and freedom**

**The Psychologies of Corruption**
[https://fcpablog.com/2023/05/08/the-psychologies-of-corruption/](https://fcpablog.com/2023/05/08/the-psychologies-of-corruption/)

**Facing impeachment for corruption, Ecuador’s president dissolves congress**

**Nicolas Sarkozy loses appeal on corruption conviction**

**Ukraine authorities expose piles of cash in Supreme Court corruption probe**
DRUG TRAFFICKING

A History of the Caribbean's Most Powerful Drug Kingpins
Douwe Den Held and Gavin Voss – InSight Crime: 12 May 2023
Caribbean countries seized record amounts of cocaine in recent months, but the roots of the region’s persistence as a key corridor for the drug stretch back half a century.

Steven Dudley and Parker Asmann – InSight Crime: 18 May 2023
The cartel has maintained a presence across from south Texas for nearly a century, but recent events suggest that criminal dynamics may be changing in this strategic corridor.

For more on this theme:
What is Captagon, the addictive drug mass-produced in Syria?
Captagon: the drug fuelling the Gulf party scene — and Syria’s finances
Mexico's Laws to Regulate Chemicals Work on Paper But Not in Practice
https://insightcrime.org/investigations/mexico-laws-regulate-chemicals-work-on-paper/
In Africa’s ‘first narco-state’, rehab can mean torture for addicts
Serbian Officials Capture Balkans’ Largest Drug Trafficking Group
Syrian Drug Flow Into Middle East May Be Outside Assad’s Control
https://themedialine.org/by-region/syrian-drug-flow-into-middle-east-may-be-outside-assads-control/
Largest-ever Colombian “narco sub” intercepted in the Pacific Ocean
Iran Executes Five People Over Drug Trafficking
https://www.voanews.com/a/iran-executes-five-over-drug-trafficking/7094596.html
Europe’s Weakest Border? Smuggling Between Suriname and French Guiana
How El Chapo’s four sons — Los Chapitos — built a fentanyl empire that is now poisoning America
TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

Report: Animals at risk as wildlife crime falls down the list of policing priorities
Nottingham Trent University: 12 May 2023

Despite being one of the highest-value areas of crime globally, wildlife infractions are not a core police issue because of a lack of data, resources and expertise, according to research led by Nottingham Trent University.


The Dark Web Sells Thousands of Wild Animals. But Not as Pets.
Tessa Koumoundouros – Science Alert: 12 May 2023

The illegal wildlife trade poses one of the greatest threats to many species’ existence. Alas, the internet has allowed this trade to flourish.

https://www.sciencealert.com/the-dark-web-sells-thousands-of-wild-animals-but-not-as-pets

For more on this theme:

Criminal Gangs are Logging the World's Last Brazilwood Trees to Make Violin Bows

Gun-toting gold miners resist Brazil’s attempt to take back the Amazon

Indigenous youths use tech as ‘weapon’ to protect Amazon

EU deforestation tracking regulation sparks division among groups, producers

Latin America had the most attacks on environmental defenders in 2022, says report

Illegal mining booms in Brazilian Amazon ‘promised land’

Illegal mining threatens Ghana forests
https://www.africanews.com/2023/05/04/illegal-mining-threatening-ghana-forests/

Ecuador deploys soldiers against illegal mines in Amazonian areas

Study: China’s squid fleet avoids Peru to dodge new port law
INTERNET GOVERNANCE

We Blinded and the World Changed: Challenges of Generative AI to Internet Governance
Mark Datysgeld – CircleID: 11 May 2023

The pace of artificial intelligence development has been astonishing to the degree that the normative space has been unable to keep up. As governments start looking into technology such as ChatGPT, more advanced techniques and products continue to emerge.


For more on this theme:

(Global) UNCTAD calls for balanced global approach to manage digital data

(Global) If Code Is Law, Then Protocols Are Good Manners That Help Us Get Along
https://circleid.com/posts/20230510-if-code-is-law-then-protocols-are-good-manners-that-help-us-get-along

(Global) The Internet as a Public Utility

INTERNET FREEDOM

As net tightens, Iranians pushed to take up homegrown apps
Agence France-Presse: 14 May 2023

Iranians are accustomed to using virtual private networks, or VPNs, to evade restrictions and access prohibited websites or apps, including Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.

https://www.arabnews.com/node/2303051/middle-east

For more on this theme:

(Brazil) Brazil Court Makes Telegram Scrap 'Censorship' Message

(Venezuela) Venezuela: Overcoming pandemic and censorship, reporters use messaging app for dialogue with their audiences

(Kazakhstan) Unfreedom Monitor Report: Kazakhstan
https://advox.globalvoices.org/2023/05/11/unfreedom-monitor-report-kazakhstan/

(Pakistan) Pakistan shut down the internet — but that didn't stop the protests
CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING

How the United States Can Effectively Implement Its New Digital Transformation With Africa Initiative
Jane Munga – Carnegie: 17 May 2023

The United States’ new digital initiative with Africa is timely and promising, but its vast potential will go unrealized if its mission isn’t translated into targeted action. These three proposals could help.


For more on this theme:

(Global) Digital Equity 2.0: How to Close the Data Divide

(U.S., Costa Rica) US Helps Costa Rica Combat Cyberthreats
https://dialogo-americas.com/articles/us-helps-costa-rica-combat-cyberthreats/

(Pacific Islands) Working with the Pacific island nations to build resilience

(Turkmenistan) First OSCE training on cybercrime and digital evidence in Turkmenistan
https://www.osce.org/centre-in-ashgabat/543765

CYBER STRATEGY AND RISKS

Into the Future: Paving way for the Digital India Act
Financial Express: 12 May 2023

As India’s prime minister said, world economies must not resist the “natural flow of globalization,” and given that globalization is increasingly dependent on digitalization, Indian laws need to be nimble.


For more on this theme:

(U.S.) DoD’s Zero Trust Initiative is an Unique ‘Unity of Effort,’ Air Force CIO Says

(U.S., South Korea) U.S.-South Korea Cyber Cooperation Helps Contain China Regionally
https://www.oodaloop.com/archive/2023/05/10/u-s-south-korea-cyber-cooperation-helps-contain-china-regionally/

(U.S., Latvia) US Cyber Command ‘Hunts Forward’ in Latvia
CYBERATTACKS

**USS warns members’ data may have been stolen by Capita hackers**

*Tom Williams – Times Higher Education: 12 May 2023*

Outsourcing firm used by the U.K.’s largest academic pensions provider was targeted in cyberattack.


*For more on this theme:*

(U.S.) Australia’s TechnologyOne says customers face no impact from cyber attack


(U.S.) Lowell Hit With Cyberattack, Some Data Released to Dark Web


(Global) Multinational tech firm ABB hit by Black Basta ransomware attack


(U.S.) Philadelphia Inquirer severely disrupted by cyber-attack

https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2023/may/15/philadelphia-inquirer-cyber-attack

CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION

**The threat of nation-state attacks in energy is growing**

*Matt Watson – Energy: 14 May 2023*

Matt Watson of CovertSwam discusses infrastructure complexity and geographic diversity in relation to energy sector cybersecurity.


*For more on this theme:*

(U.S.) CISA Rolls Out Program to Protect Critical Infrastructure From Ransomware


(Australia) World-first intelligence sharing initiative defending Australian Critical Infrastructure


(U.S., Global) Securing the Supply Chain of the 5G Network Is Critical to Its Success

PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

ISIS AND FOREIGN FIGHTERS

The New ISIS: How a Branch of the Terrorist Group Is Becoming a Top Threat
Drew F. Lawrence – Military.com: 12 May 2023
The Islamic State group’s Afghanistan affiliate has rapidly become the new boogeyman in the Middle East.

Brief: ISWAP Attacks Northern Nigerian State of Jigawa for First Time
Jacob Zenn – The Jamestown Foundation: 12 May 2023
In July 2021, an emir in Jigawa State in northern Nigeria announced that Jigawa was the “most peaceful state in the country” and that the state had “no problem [with] Boko Haram,” referring to Islamic State in West Africa Province.
https://jamestown.org/program/brief-iswap-attacks-northern-nigerian-state-of-jigawa-for-first-time/

For more on this theme:
Islamic State women use children as ‘sex tools,’ Syrian Kurdish officials say

The Islamic State Has a New Target: Russia
https://foreignpolicy.com/2023/05/09/islamic-state-afghanistan-khorasan-propaganda-russia-ukraine-war/

French jihadists who joined ISIS in Syria asks to be repatriated

ISIS’ Bloody April
https://dsm.forecastinternational.com/wordpress/2023/05/11/isis-bloody-april/

ICCT in the Media: Tanya Mehra on the Women of ISIS
https://www.icct.nl/multimedia/icct-media-tanya-mehra-women-isis

The Taliban and the Islamic State Continue to Fight for Afghanistan’s Future

Belgium Grapples with Lasting Impact of Islamic State Attacks

Government Fails to Bring Australians from Syrian Camps Home
TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

Disengaging and Reintegrating Violent Extremists in Conflict Zones
Andrew Glazzard – United States Institute of Peace: 16 May 2023

Dealing with people who leave violent extremist groups has become one of the most pressing security issues of our time.


Sahel ‘at a crossroads’ as armed groups gain sway in Africa: UN
AlJazeera: 17 May 2023

International community is criticized after joint force battling armed groups left without sufficient funding and other needed support.


For more on this theme:

Is CVE in the West Heading Down the Wrong Road?
https://eeradicalization.com/is-cve-in-the-west-heading-down-the-wrong-road/

Islamic Jihad, a Palestinian Faction With Rockets and Iranian Backing

Understanding the Trauma-Related Effects of Terrorist Propaganda on Researchers
https://gnet-research.org/2023/05/09/understanding-the-trauma-related-effects-of-terrorist-propaganda-on-researchers/

Reserve assets: Armed groups and conflict economies in the national parks of Burkina Faso, Niger and Benin
https://globalinitiative.net/analysis/armed-groups-conflict-economies-national-parks-west-africa/

Wagner is Using ISIS Tactics and The World Should Know

Wagner Group: what it would mean for the UK to designate Putin’s private army a ‘terrorist organisation’

Hizb ut-Tahrir and Al-Muhajiroun: An Analysis of Extremist Islamist Groups and Their Relationships With Violence

Jihadists Warn Members To Beware Online ‘Deepfakes’
https://humanglemedia.com/jihadists-warn-members-to-beware-online-deepfakes/

Syria’s main insurgent group seeks to distance itself from past al-Qaeda ties
RUSSIA/UKRAINE

Russia, meet Ukraine’s iron dome
Veronika Melkozerova – Politico, 16 May 2023

Kyiv repels new Russian barrage, thanks to newly boosted air defenses.

For more on this theme:
Ukraine Launches Sabotage Operations on Occupied Territories and Inside Russia

Russian Imperial Movement Deepens Involvement in Ukraine War
https://jamestown.org/program/russian-imperial-movement-deepens-involvement-in-ukraine-war/

Russia, Ukraine to receive African mission on potential peace plan, Pretoria says

Russia agrees to extend Ukraine grain shipping deal another 2 months
https://www.pbs.org/newshour/world/russia-agrees-to-extend-ukraine-grain-shipping-deal-another-2-months

G7 weighs new sanctions on Russia to end Ukraine war

Council of Europe summit in Iceland seeks to hold Russia to account for waging war in Ukraine
https://apnews.com/article/council-of-europe-summit-iceland-ukraine-aad7da4375cd8b71b5d4326d4b75fc0b

Russia-Belarus border checks return, linked to Ukraine war draft

Russia's Ukraine invasion must end in failure like Afghanistan, says Estonian PM

What Russia’s hybrid war on Ukraine has taught us about nation state tactics

How Russia’s Wagner Group funds its role in Putin’s Ukraine war by plundering Africa's resources

Returning Ukraine's Children ‘Evacuated’ to Russia
RUSSIA/UKRAINE

For more on this theme:

**Russia Threatens Ukrainians Who Refuse Russian Citizenship**

**Russia's twilight zone, where wartime life is nearly normal**

**Wagner chief’s rants highlight Russian infighting ahead of Ukraine offensive**

**Ukraine's European integration is the key to a sustainable peace**
https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/ukrainealert/ukraines-european-integration-is-the-key-to-a-sustainable-peace/

**Ukraine's growing defense tech prowess can help defeat Russia**

**US envoy says Russian ship picked up weapons in South Africa**

**With Taiwan in Mind, China Observes Attack Helicopter Operations in Ukraine**

**What Started in Crimea Should End in Crimea**
https://cepa.org/article/what-started-in-crimea-should-end-in-crimea/

**Putin and the Riddle of the Hornet's Nest**
https://cepa.org/article/putin-and-the-riddle-of-the-hornets-nest/

**Russia’s Military Has Improved — The West Should Take Note**
https://cepa.org/article/russias-military-has-improved-the-west-should-take-note/

**Putin’s Wicked Jester Betrays the Kremlin’s Game**
https://cepa.org/article/putins-wicked-jester-betrays-the-kremlins-game/

**Ukraine: The Moment of Truth Is Near**
https://cepa.org/article/ukraine-the-moment-of-truth-is-near/

**Why Is India Resilient To Ukraine War, Amidst Downswing Of Global Growth? — Analysis**

**Putin’s Holy Grail: Myth, Power, And the Retaking Of Russian-Occupied Crimea — Analysis**
RUSSIA/UKRAINE

For more on this theme:

Is There Life in the Desert? Russian Civil Society After the Full-Scale Invasion of Ukraine

Is Ukraine’s Spring Offensive Already Underway?
https://foreignpolicy.com/2023/05/16/ukraine-spring-offensive-russia-war-putin/

Hong Kong’s Technology Lifeline to Russia
https://carnegieendowment.org/2023/05/17/hong-kong-s-technology-lifeline-to-russia-pub-89775

How Sanctions Have Changed the Face of Chinese Companies in Russia
https://carnegieendowment.org/politika/89785

NATO Membership for Ukraine
https://www.americanpurpose.com/articles/nato-membership-for-ukraine/

Wrangling China to influence Russia in Ukraine is a fool’s errand

What the invasion of Ukraine means for unity in Southeast Asia

Online search data shows Russian morale remained low and ‘tacit dissent’ spiked after invasion of Ukraine