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COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

How Sergei Magnitsky paid with his life for exposing Vladimir Putin’s financial corruption
Katie Stallard – New Statesman: 13 May 2022

A new book by Bill Browder reveals the bravery of a young lawyer who uncovered a $231 million state-sponsored tax fraud.

Strategic Corruption: Being ready to act
Marren Haneberg – Reuters: 16 May 2022

In a two-part series, Reuters examines the challenges of detecting, investigating and preventing strategic corruption and kleptocracy in governments.

For more on this theme:

How Russia can shed centuries of corruption
https://www.gisreportsonline.com/russia-stop-corruption/

Platform identifying global maritime corruption risks launched

Ghana: The Antidote to Corruption Is Transparency — Dr Bawumia
https://allafrica.com/stories/202205060527.html

Slovak ex-PM narrowly stays out of jail in corruption fiasco
https://euobserver.com/rule-of-law/154892

Guinea-Bissau’s president Embalo dissolves parliament, citing corruption

Nigeria’s accountant general faces corruption charges after arrest

British Virgin Islands Starts Corruption Probes Amid Turmoil

Bucharest Court Jails Fugitive Ex-Mayor for Corruption
https://balkaninsight.com/2022/05/13/bucharest-court-jails-fugitive-ex-mayor-for-corruption/

Indians blame corruption, poor infra for power cuts amid heatwaves
https://qz.com/india/2166582/indians-blame-corruption-for-power-cuts-amid-heatwaves/
DRUG TRAFFICKING

Drug traffickers groom children as young as 10 at “school of assassins” in Ecuador
CBS News: 16 May 2022
At a hideout used by the Los Lagartos gang, one of Duran’s cartels, police found a collection of cuddly stuffed crocodiles. They think gangs use toys to attract children, particularly ones that allude to the criminal group; Los Lagartos means “the lizards” in Spanish.

Can Peru Counter Drug Trafficking by Buying All the Coca?
Gabrielle Gorder – InSight Crime: 17 May 2022
A government proposal for Peru to purchase all the country’s coca production has generated fierce debate, but experts question whether it is even feasible.

For more on this theme:
Mexico Captures Drug Kingpin Alias Boliqueso
Montenegro Govt Ignored Warnings About Police Ties to Drug Gangs
https://balkaninsight.com/2022/05/05/montenegro-govt-ignored-warnings-about-police-ties-to-drug-gangs/
The United States Can Counter Out of Control Captagon Smuggling
https://nationalinterest.org/feature/united-states-can-counter-out-control-captagon-smuggling-202237
InSight Crime Event: Venezuela’s Cocaine Revolution
Three decades after Pablo Escobar’s death, drugs ravage Medellin
‘It’s total terror’: Colombian cartel retaliates over kingpin’s arrest
https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/may/08/gulf-clan-cartel-armed-strike-colombia-otoniel-dairo-antonio-usuga
Colombian and Mexican Cartels Pick Sides in Ecuador’s Drug War
Avocados, Limes and Peaches: Cartel Violence Kills Harvests of Fruit in Mexico
Fentanyl Has Transformed The Illicit Drug Trade. A Toxicologist Explains How
New ruling threatens Coast Guard’s high seas counter-drug mission
TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

New International Maritime Organization guidelines to combat wildlife smuggling
Traffic: 13 May 2022
The document includes measures to prevent, detect and report wildlife trafficking within the global shipping industry.

How innovative financing can help protect the black rhino population
Oliver Withers – World Economic Forum: 12 May 2022
Illegal wildlife trade is actually the fourth-largest global crime, estimated at from $7 to $23 billion per year. Creating long-term financing for conserving species and engaging people through developing livelihoods is crucial to increasing conservation efforts.
https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2022/05/wildlife-conservation-bond-innovative-financing-to-achieve-results-for-rhinos/

For more on this theme:
Fisher groups are the marine militia in Indonesia’s war on illegal fishing
https://news.mongabay.com/2022/05/fisher-groups-are-the-marine-militia-in-indonesias-war-on-illegal-fishing/

Drones offer extra eyes to combat illegal fishing activity

Illegal Coal Mine Killings Prompt Peruvian Authorities to Act

Interpol: Illegal Gold Mining is Devastating Latin America

In Indonesia’s illegal mines, the poor risk it all for fortune

Report: Massive Destruction of Tropical and Boreal Forests in 2021

Disappeared Mexican activist underscores deadly threat to environmental defenders

Panama’s Indigenous Groups Wage High-Tech Fight for Their Lands
https://e360.yale.edu/features/panamas-indigenous-groups-wage-a-high-tech-fight-for-their-lands

How ignorance, poverty drive illegal logging, deforestation in Ekiti

Sale of donkey skins linked to trade in illegal wildlife products
MONEY LAUNDERING

What You Need To Know About Today’s Evolving Anti-Money Laundering Laws
Stephanie Wilkins – Above the Law: 13 May 2022

Regulators and prosecutors are focusing on the misuse of shell companies, offshore entities, trusts and beyond.


For more on this theme:

France effective in combatting financial crime, though some critical gaps remain

Treasury: Russia war bolsters need to combat illicit finance
https://www.clickondetroit.com/news/politics/2022/05/13/treasury-russia-war-bolsters-need-to-combat-illicitfinance/

London Laundering Case May Hold Clues to Guinea’s Gold

Money laundering and market manipulation biggest global threats to decentralised finance

Surge in money laundering offences as crime migrates online

Time’s Up: Cryptocurrency Has Become a National Security Issue
https://nationalinterest.org/blog/techland-when-great-power-competition-meets-digital-world/time%E2%80%99s-cryptocurrency-has-become
INTERNET GOVERNANCE

When Corporate Interests and International Cyber Agreements Collide
Bruce Schneier and Tarah Wheeler – The Cipher Brief: 5 May 2022

The Paris Call for Trust and Stability in Cyberspace is an initiative launched by French President Emmanuel Macron during the 2018 UNESCO Internet Governance Forum. It’s an attempt by the world’s governments to create international standards for a reliable, trustworthy, safe and secure internet.


For more on this theme:

(Global) How to Save the “Past” in the “Future of the Internet”: Principles, Procedures and Problems of the Washington Declaration

(Global) Governments only: The public doesn’t get a say in the internet’s future

(Global) Battle lines for the future of the internet
https://www.brookings.edu/blog/techtank/2022/05/11/battle-lines-for-the-future-of-the-internet/

INTERNET FREEDOM

Hong Kong could move to block Telegram app, citing ‘privacy violations’
Lee Yuk Yue and Lu X – Radio Free Asia: 18 May 2022

Privacy Commissioner Ada Chung told a Legislative Council committee that the government remains concerned about doxxing and other violations of personal data.


For more on this theme:

(Global) “Declaration for the Future of the Internet” Addresses Internet Freedom Amidst Decade-long Global Decline in Free Speech and Accessibility

(China) Chinese web users get creative to dodge COVID censorship

(Russia) How millions of Russians are tearing holes in the Digital Iron Curtain
CYBER STATECRAFT AND STRATEGY

South Korea, Canada, and Luxembourg join NATO cyber defence centre
Ryan Daws – Telecoms: 6 May 2022

The NATO Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence held a flag-raising ceremony to welcome its latest members.


For more on this theme:

(Global) Building a Cyber Force Is Even Harder Than You Thought
https://warontherocks.com/2022/05/building-a-cyber-force-is-even-harder-than-you-thought/

(Australia) Defence and Diplomacy: Australia’s Enhanced Cyber Capability

(Global) Legal Regimes Governing Cyberactivity and Cyberwarfare
https://www.brookings.edu/research/legal-regimes-governing-cyberactivity-and-cyberwarfare/

CYBER ATTACKS, THREATS AND VULNERABILITIES

Cyber attack on Costa Rica grows as more agencies hit, president says
Reuters: 16 May 2022

The number of Costa Rican institutions hit in a wave of cyberattacks in the past month has grown to 27.


For more on this theme:

(U.S.) Cyberattack takes down network of State Bar of Georgia
https://therecord.media/state-bar-of-georgia-cyberattack/

(Russia) Russia’s RuTube knocked out for second day by Victory Day cyber attack

(Ireland) Increase in cyber attacks on Irish companies – report
CYBER CRIME

The New Era of Cyber-Attacks - Who is Most at Risk This Year?
Chris Harris – InfoSecurity Magazine: 17 May 2022

Cybercrime is on the rise, and the nature and complexity of attacks are constantly evolving, with criminals using sophisticated means to compromise networks.

For more on this theme:

(Global) Ukraine war and COVID pandemic fuel cybercrime

(Global) Which Country Has the Most Cybercrime Per Capita? It's Not the US
https://www.pcmag.com/news/which-country-has-the-most-cybercrime-per-capita-its-not-the-us

(U.S.) New DOJ Team Focuses on Ransomware and Cryptocurrency Crime
https://securityintelligence.com/articles/doj-ransomware-crypto/

(Africa) Africa Grapples With Way Forward on Cybercrime
https://www.securityweek.com/africa-grapples-way-forward-cybercrime

CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION

EU Agrees New Cybersecurity Legislation for Critical Services Organizations
James Coker – InfoSecurity Magazine: 13 May 2022

The European Union has reached political agreement on new legislation that will impose common cybersecurity standards on critical industry organizations.

For more on this theme:

(U.S.) What We've Learned in the 12 Months Since the Colonial Pipeline Attack
https://www.datacenterknowledge.com/security/what-weve-learned-12-months-colonial-pipeline-attack

(Global) Why Hackers Target Critical Infrastructure and Why It's Difficult to Upgrade Cybersecurity

(U.K.) Critical Infrastructure Firms See Cyber-Attacks Surge
PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

ISIS AND FOREIGN FIGHTERS

US: Africa Needs Tailored Strategies to Fight ISIS Groups
Mohammed Yusuf – Voice of America: 18 May 2022

African countries are being encouraged to use soft and hard power to counter the growing threat posed by the Islamic State group. The U.S. government is giving more than $100 million to African states to overcome terrorism. U.S. officials say that African leadership and voices are needed to ensure security assistance is targeted to where it’s needed.


For more on this theme:

IS-K Attacks Puncture Taliban’s Narrative About Establishing Security In Afghanistan
https://gandhara.rferl.org/a/islamic-state-afghanistan-taliban-security/31836037.html

IS-K Ramps Up War Against The Taliban By Attacking Central Asian Neighbors

Morocco Arrests IS Suspect in Joint Probe with US
https://www.voanews.com/a/6561614.html

ISWAP Executes Shekau’s Aide-de-Camp over Attempt to Surrender to Troops
https://www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2022/05/12/iswap-executes-shekaus-aide-de-camp-over-attempt-to-surrender-to-troops/

Islamic state claims responsibility for attack on Egyptian troops in Sinai

Yazidis displaced anew by north Iraq violence
https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2022/05/yazidis-displaced-aneu-north-iraq-violence

Taliban Investigating Report That Islamic State Fired Rockets Into Tajikistan
https://gandhara.rferl.org/a/afghanistan-islamic-state-tajikistan-rockets/31839638.html

Central Asia Again Worried About Attacks From Northern Afghanistan
https://www.rferl.org/a/majlis-podcast-is-k-central-asia-afghanistan/31839762.html

Is the Islamic State in Crisis?
https://www.criticalthreats.org/analysis/is-the-islamic-state-in-crisis

The Islamic State and Examining the Spectrum of Conflict

Global Coalition Preparing ‘Holistic’ Assault on Islamic State in Africa
TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

Northern Afghanistan and the New Threat to Central Asia
Bruce Pannier – Foreign Policy Research Institute: 13 May 2022

The contest for control of northern Afghanistan between the Taliban, the Islamic State group and other terrorist groups is a major security concern for Central Asia. The deteriorating situation in the region demonstrates that Central Asian states have few options in dealing with a new threat on their border.


Africa File: Salafi-Jihadi Groups May Exploit Local Grievances to Expand in West Africa's Gulf of Guinea
Critical Threats: 13 May 2022

Salafi-jihadi groups are beginning to intensify attacks in the northern border regions of several Gulf of Guinea states. These attacks may indicate that militants linked to al-Qaida intend to extend their insurgency to these countries.


For more on this theme:

Hezbollah, allies lose majority in Lebanon’s parliament
https://apnews.com/article/government-and-politics-elections-lebanon-legislature-6e505bf22d-6525f144ab0f2b0c076712

Togo suffers its first deadly jihadist assault

Report: Boko Haram begins recruitment in Kaduna, distributes Sallah gifts to residents
https://www.thecable.ng/report-boko-haram-steps-up-recruitment-in-kaduna-distributes-sallah-gifts-to-residents

Desertions weaken ISWAP, Boko Haram
https://www.defenceweb.co.za/security/civil-security/desertions-weaken-iswap-boko-haram/

Nigerian Analysts Skeptical About Alleged Mass Surrender of Insurgents

Study urges more investment in Lake Chad basin to undercut extremists

Human rights must be ‘front and centre’ in the fight against terrorism: Guterres

Terrorists embrace climate change to fuel extremist violence
RADICALIZATION

Cyber Radicalization by Bangladeshi Islamists
Shafi Md Mostofa – The Diplomat: 17 May 2022

Bangladeshi Islamists may not have carried out attacks in recent years, but they are active online.
https://thediplomat.com/2022/05/cyber-radicalization-by-bangladeshi-islamists/

For more on this theme:
Hateful rhetoric driven by extremism becoming ‘normalized,’ CSIS director warns
https://www.thestar.com/politics/2022/05/04/hateful-rhetoric-driven-by-extremism-becoming-normalized-csis-director-warns.html

Differentiating Online Posting Behaviours of Violent and Non-Violent Right-Wing Extremists
https://www.hstoday.us/subject-matter-areas/counterterrorism/differentiating-online-posting-behaviours-of-violent-and-non-violent-right-wing-extremists/

DHS Secretary Mayorkas Promises ‘Every Available Resource’ After Buffalo Attack to ‘Combat Violent Extremism as One’

Few terrorism convicts undergo anti-radicalisation process after release

Video games: The alt-right’s radicalisation toolkit in the West
https://moderndiplomacy.eu/2022/05/14/video-games-the-alt-rights-radicalisation-toolkit-in-the-west/
CONFLICT AND CRIME

Russia war crimes allegations mount as Ukraine refugees top six million
Agence France-Presse: 13 May 2022

Russia faces mounting accusations of war crimes in Ukraine, including forcing thousands of people into interrogation camps, as the number of refugees reported to have fled the conflict surpasses six million.

https://www.arabnews.com/node/2081146/world

For more on this theme:

Paraguay Grapples with Criminal Sophistication After Prosecutor’s Slaying

Mexico’s official list of "disappeared" tops 100,000 as drug gang-linked violence increases

Organized environmental crime: Why it matters for peace operations

U.S. launches program to capture, analyze evidence of Russian war crimes in Ukraine

ICC sends 42-member team to probe alleged war crimes in Ukraine

Ecuador’s Police Being Assassinated in Record Numbers

The Case for War Crimes Charges Against Russia’s Sandworm Hackers
https://www.wired.com/story/cyber-war-crimes-sandworm-russia-ukraine/

The Ukraine Genocide Debate Reveals the Limits of International Law

Ukraine: UN expert urges all war crimes investigators work closely with national authorities

Can Ukraine hold Russia accountable for environmental crimes?
https://www.aljazeera.com/features/2022/5/16/can-ukraine-hold-russia-accountable-for-environmental-crimes

Russian prosecutions of Azov fighters could breach Geneva conventions
https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/may/18/russian-prosecutions-azov-fighters-geneva-conventions-ukraine
RUSSIA/UKRAINE

Has the Ukraine-Russia Conflict Weaponized Cybercrime?
Jayant Chakravarti – Toolbox: 18 May 2022

Experts discuss the impact that the war has had on cybercrime and the kind of cyberattacks organizations should prepare for in the days ahead.

For more on this theme:
Turkey’s President Erdogan signals he’ll block Finland and Sweden’s NATO applications, claiming they’re home to ‘terrorist organizations’

Two Turkey Experts on Why Erdogan Is Rejecting NATO Expansion
https://carnegieeurope.eu/2022/05/19/two-turkey-experts-on-why-erdo-is-rejecting-nato-expansion-pub-87159

The Impact of Russia’s Invasion of Ukraine in the Middle East and North Africa

The Ukraine War’s Impact on Sino-European Relations
https://ash.harvard.edu/ukraine-wars-impact-sino-european-relations

A question of balance: India and Europe after Russia’s invasion of Ukraine

Turkey, NATO, and the Ukraine war: Why Erdogan’s grievances are about more than Sweden and Finland

All-out support: The West’s commitments to Ukraine
https://ecfr.eu/article/all-out-support-the-wests-commitments-to-ukraine/

Impact of the Russian-Ukraine Conflict on Cybersecurity
https://securityboulevard.com/2022/05/impact-of-the-russian-ukraine-conflict-on-cybersecurity/

The Worst-Laid Plans: The Next Phase of Russia’s War in Ukraine

What’s the Endgame in Ukraine?
https://www.project-syndicate.org/bigpicture/what-s-the-endgame-in-ukraine

The Imperfect Shape of Peace in Ukraine
RUSSIA/UKRAINE

For more on this theme:

Putin's Imperial War: Russia unveils plans to annex southern Ukraine
https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/ukrainealert/putins-war-of-imperial-aggression-russia-prepares-to-an-
nex-southern-ukraine/

Vladimir Putin is running out of options to avoid defeat in Ukraine
https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/ukrainealert/vladimir-putin-is-running-out-of-options-to-avoid-defeat-
in-ukraine/

Western advocates of appeasement need a crash course in Putinology
https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/ukrainealert/western-advocates-of-appeasement-need-a-crash-course-
in-putinology/

What Went Wrong With Russia's Invasion of Ukraine?
https://www.russiamatters.org/analysis/what-went-wrong-russias-invasion-ukraine

Russia's Shrinking Goals
https://www.nytimes.com/2022/05/16/briefing/russia-ukraine-war-mcdonalds.html

Sanctions and the Costs of Russia's War in Ukraine
https://theglobalobservatory.org/2022/05/sanctions-and-the-costs-of-russias-war-in-ukraine/

What Is China Learning From Russia's War in Ukraine?
https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/china/2022-05-16/what-china-learning-russias-war-ukraine

Fiona Hill says Putin 'doesn't think anything has gone wrong' in Ukraine and lives ‘in a bubble’
https://www.businessinsider.in/politics/world/news/fiona-hill-says-putin-doesnt-think-anything-has-gone-
wrong-in-ukraine-and-lives-in-a-bubble/articleshow/91649867.cms

Setbacks in Ukraine trigger rare criticism of Russia's war effort by Russian bloggers

India's Geopolitical And Military Lessons From Ukraine Invasion – Analysis
https://www.eurasiareview.com/19052022-indias-geopolitical-and-military-lessons-from-ukraine-inva-
sion-analysis/

From Iraq to Ukraine: A New Perspective on the Russian-Western Confrontation
https://warontherocks.com/2022/05/from-iraq-to-ukraine-a-new-perspective-on-the-russian-western-confron-
tation/

When Strongmen Invade, They Bring Their Pathologies With Them
https://warontherocks.com/2022/05/when-strongmen-invade-they-bring-their-pathologies-with-them/

Intelligence and the War in Ukraine: Part 2

How the Russia-Ukraine war is changing Ankara's relationship with Moscow
https://www.middleeasteye.net/opinion/ukraine-war-russia-turkey-relationship-changes-how
RUSSIA/UKRAINE

For more on this theme:

**US says Russia has forced thousands of Ukrainians from their homes and into so-called ‘filtration camps’**

**Seven (Initial) Drone Warfare Lessons from Ukraine**
https://mwi.usma.edu/seven-initial-drone-warfare-lessons-from-ukraine/

**Western Sanctions Are ‘Beginning to Bite’ Into Russia’s Military**
https://foreignpolicy.com/2022/05/12/western-sanctions-are-beginning-to-bite-into-russias-military/

**Iran Gives Russia Two And A Half Cheers – Analysis**
https://cepa.org/iran-gives-russia-two-and-a-half-cheers/

**Ukraine recap: reality is beginning to rain on Putin’s Victory Parade**
https://theconversation.com/ukraine-recap-reality-is-beginning-to-rain-on-putins-victory-parade-182994

**Pride or shame? Russian influencers on the war in Ukraine**
https://globalvoices.org/2022/05/12/pride-or-shame-russian-influencers-on-the-war-in-ukraine/

**A Legal Approach to the Transfer of Russian Assets to Rebuild Ukraine**

**Ukraine ‘Still Dangerous for Journalists’**

**How the Ukraine war is advancing Iran’s influence in Syria**
https://english.alaraby.co.uk/analysis/how-ukraine-war-advancing-irans-influence-syria

**The Baltic states are also worried about Russia**
https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2022/05/17/baltics-russia-ukraine-latvia-lithuania-estonia/

**Ukraine’s Women at War**
https://cepa.org/ukraines-women-at-war/

**Russian Propagandists Regain Footing on Ukraine**
https://cepa.org/russian-propagandists-regain-footing-on-ukraine/

**Russian Political Warfare Is a Rising Menace**
https://cepa.org/russian-political-warfare-is-a-rising-menace/

**The Kremlin Cannot Negotiate**
https://cepa.org/the-kremlin-cannot-negotiate/

**No Ceasefire, No Freeze, Ukraine Must Win**
https://cepa.org/no-ceasefire-no-freeze-ukraine-must-win/

**Give Us the Tools — War Aims in Ukraine**
https://cepa.org/give-us-the-tools-war-aims-in-ukraine/
RUSSIA/UKRAINE

For more on this theme:

**Xi’s Control of Domestic Politics Has Trapped Beijing Over Ukraine**
https://foreignpolicy.com/2022/05/17/xi-china-ukraine-russia/

**Ukraine Aid Tracker: Mapping the West’s support to counter Russia’s invasion**

**Understanding Russia’s War: The Strange Philosophy Of Aleksandr Dugin — Analysis**

**Russia-Ukraine war: Bread now too costly for many Africans, says Akinwumi Adesina**
https://www.thecable.ng/russia-ukraine-war-bread-now-too-costly-for-many-africans-says-akinwumi-adesina

**Research Exposes Long-Term Failure of Russian Propaganda in Ukraine**

**On Ukraine, Africa Needs a Clearer U.S. Message**
https://www.usip.org/publications/2022/05/ukraine-africa-needs-clearer-us-message

**The Ukraine War is Deepening Global Food Insecurity — What Can Be Done?**
https://www.usip.org/publications/2022/05/ukraine-war-deepening-global-food-insecurity-what-can-be-done