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
  Cybercrime
  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

The fight against courtroom corruption continues in wartime Ukraine
Olena Halushka – Atlantic Council: 1 June 2023

The head of Ukraine’s Supreme Court, Vsevolod Kniaziev, was detained in mid-May on corruption charges. The landmark case reflects the progress made in the nation’s struggle against corruption within the judiciary, while also highlighting the issues that must still be addressed in order to create a rule-of-law environment that will allow Ukraine to prosper.


Brazilian Former President Collor Sentenced for Corruption
Vinicius Madureira – Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project: 5 June 2023

Brazil’s top court sentenced former Brazilian President Fernando Collor de Mello to eight years and ten months in prison for “passive corruption and money laundering” linked to Brazil’s largest fuel retailer during his time as a senator.


For more on this theme:

Lebanon: After Harfouch’s success against corruption the defamatory campaign against him continues
https://www.eureporter.co/world/lebanon/2023/05/19/lebanon-after-harfouchs-success-against-corruption-the-defamatory-campaign-against-him-continues/

Corruption in South Africa: former CEO’s explosive book exposes how state power utility was destroyed

Australia corruption watchdog calls for audit of public sector staff following investigation

Corruption in Spotlight as Pakistan’s Economy Spirals

Bulgaria agrees to government with rotating PMs to tackle corruption

Gender and anti-corruption efforts are on G20 agenda
https://sundayguardianlive.com/opinion/gender-and-anti-corruption-efforts-are-on-g20-agenda

Cenusa: EU anti-corruption sanctions: a useful tool for eastward enlargement
https://intellinews.com/cenusa-eu-anti-corruption-sanctions-a-useful-tool-for-eastward-enlargement-280114
DRUG TRAFFICKING

Los Zetas: A Look at Mexico’s Most Violent Cartel
Javier Sutil Toledano – Grey Dynamics: 30 May 2023

Los Zetas, a Mexican criminal organization, was founded in 1997 to serve as the Gulf Cartel’s enforcement arm. It was founded by a group of Mexican special forces who defected to create the cartel’s armed wing.

https://greydynamics.com/los-zetas-a-look-at-mexicos-most-violent-cartel/

Huge increase in transnational crime and synthetic drugs in SE Asia requires cross-border cooperation
United Nations News: 2 June 2023

Traffic in illegal narcotics, precursor chemicals, timber and wildlife, people, and illicit goods across Southeast Asia is being tackled, thanks to the support of the specialized United Nations agency focusing on drugs and crime.


For more on this theme:
Drug trafficking via Golden Triangle on the radar screen

Cryptocurrency Inexorably Linked to the Fentanyl Trade

Syria and Captagon: An Assessment
https://www.meforum.org/64442/syria-and-captagon-an-assessment

Cocaine price crash a blow for Colombian coca growers

World Is Yours: How a Cheap Synthetic Drug Is Ravaging India’s Northeast

White House vows an improved effort against drug overdoses

The People’s War on Drugs Rolls On
https://jamestown.org/program/the-peoples-war-on-drugs-rolls-on/

Does the Global Drug Trafficking Industry Affect Oil and Gas?

Inside the Taliban’s war on drugs – opium poppy crops slashed
TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

**Illegal Mining Boom Poisoning Land, Feeding Myanmar Junta’s War Machine: MMWN**  
*The Irrawaddy:* 30 May 2023

The Myanmar Mining Watch Network has called for all mining operations in ethnic areas to cease, warning that a surge in illegal extraction since the 2021 coup is destroying the environment and communities.


**Colombian Gold Enriches Criminal Groups, Impoverishes Soil and Population**  
*Sabina Nicholls – Diálogo:* 25 May 2023

Colombia is the 16th-largest gold producer in the world and the third-largest in Latin America, according to the Statista world ranking. In 2022, the country exported 70.7 tons of gold worth $2.9 billion, according to Colombia’s National Mining Agency. Following oil, coal and coffee, gold is the country’s fourth-largest export product.


For more on this theme:

**Venezuela’s hidden runways bring both life and destruction to Indigenous lands**  

**Illegal trawling ravages Tunisian seagrass meadows crucial for fish**  

**Japan Poised to Lead on Fisheries Oversight in Pacific**  

**Borders between Mercosur countries have become a hub for trafficking agrochemicals**  
https://news.mongabay.com/2023/05/borders-between-mercosur-countries-have-become-a-hub-for-trafficking-agrochemicals/

**US says Mexico failed to stop illegal wildlife trade threatening vaquita**  

**Conservation crime scientist uncovers secrets of trade threatening world’s most endangered species**  

**Wildlife crime is a national security issue — and Homeland Security is on the case**  
https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/article/homeland-security-to-combat-wildlife-trafficking-crime
INTERNET GOVERNANCE

An AI Challenge: Balancing Open and Closed Systems
Pablo Chavez – CEPA: 30 May 2023

Navigating the spectrum between open and closed systems is critical to effective artificial intelligence policy. The right balance will promote innovation and competition while managing AI’s significant risks.

For more on this theme:
(Bangladesh) Experts for more women participation in internet governance

(Global) Emerging AI Governance is an Opportunity for Business Leaders to Accelerate Innovation and Profitability

(Global) Tom Keane on the Critical Need for Better Digital Governance
https://www.usatoday.com/story/special/contributor-content/2023/05/30/tom-keane-on-the-critical-need-for-better-digital-governance/70258012007/

(U.S., EU) How to keep cyberspace civilized? US, EU take different routes.

INTERNET FREEDOM

US sanctions target Iran’s internet censorship amid protests
Arshad Mohammed – Reuters: 2 June 2023

The United States said it imposed sanctions on Iranian technology company Arvan Cloud, two of its employees and an affiliated United Arab Emirates firm for helping Tehran censor the internet in Iran as part of the government’s attempts to crush domestic protests.

For more on this theme:
(Philippines) In the Philippines, cyber censorship is a new form of authoritarianism
https://advox.globalvoices.org/2023/05/18/in-the-philippines-cyber-censorship-is-a-new-form-of-authoritarianism/

(Pakistan) The Devastating Impact of Internet Suspension in Pakistan: A Threat to Livelihoods
CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING

Building an Effective Cybersecurity Training Program
Dustin Updyke – Harvard Business Review: 25 May 2023

Organizations should train for cybersecurity events, building the skills needed to respond when a cyberattack happens.
https://hbr.org/2023/05/building-an-effective-cybersecurity-training-program

For more on this theme:
(U.S., India) Cybersecurity mission from USA in India to enhance cyber ability of the 2 countries

(U.S.) How Universities Can Bridge Cybersecurity’s Gender Gap
https://www.darkreading.com/operations/how-universities-can-bridge-cybersecurity-s-gender-gap

(Global) Connecting the World Through Digital Cooperation
https://sdg.iisd.org/commentary/policy-briefs/connecting-the-world-through-digital-cooperation/

(U.S.) Maximizing new federal investments in broadband for rural America

CYBER STRATEGY AND RISKS

DOD Submits Classified Cyber Strategy to Congress
Edward Graham – Nextgov: 26 May 2023

An unclassified Pentagon fact sheet says the new strategy will continue efforts to conduct “hunt forward operations” with the United States’ allies and “defend forward” activities meant to disrupt threat actors on their own turf.

For more on this theme:
(Ukraine) Ukraine’s Cyber Defense Success: Top Takeaways

(EU) EU countries give lukewarm reception to cyber defence strategy

(India) How India’s Cyber Diplomacy Strategies Are Gaining Global Momentum

(Ukraine) Ukraine’s Diia platform sets the global gold standard for e-government
CYBERCRIME

It's Time for the United States to Adopt a New Strategy to Combat Ransomware
Kyle Fendorf and Natasha White – The National Interest: 29 May 2023

The organizational complexities of ransomware groups and their weaknesses make the use of offensive cyberattacks especially useful in combating them.

https://nationalinterest.org/blog/techland/it%E2%80%99s-time-united-states-adopt-new-strategy-combat-ransomware-206508

For more on this theme:

(Global) Combating the Rise of Deepfakes in Cybercrime: Strategies for Combating the Issue

(U.S., Global) IRS to Send Cyber Attachés Abroad to Fight Crypto Crime

(U.S.) $10.3 Billion in Cyber Crime Losses Shatters Previous Totals

CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION

China’s Latest Cyberattack Is an Active Threat to Critical U.S. Infrastructure
Brian J. Cavanaugh – The Heritage Foundation: 31 May 2023

Volt Typhoon, a hacking group sponsored by the People’s Republic of China, has been stealthily targeting various critical infrastructure sectors. The Department of Homeland Security must take meaningful steps toward mitigating cyber threats to our critical infrastructure.

https://www.heritage.org/cybersecurity/commentary/chinas-latest-cyberattack-active-threat-critical-us-infrastructure

For more on this theme:

(Canada) Fortifying Canada’s cyber defences: Protecting critical infrastructure and empowering organizations
https://obj.ca/the-time-to-fortify-canadas-cyber-defences-is-now/

(Russia, Global) Researchers uncover Russia-linked malware that could immobilize electric grids
https://techcrunch.com/2023/05/25/mandiant-russia-malware-immobilize-electric-grids/

(Azerbaijan) Protection of critical information infrastructure among priorities of Azerbaijani state, official says
ISIS AND FOREIGN FIGHTERS

UN investigators compiling evidence on chemical weapons use by Islamic State extremists in Iraq
Edith M. Lederer – The Associated Press: 7 June 2023

United Nations investigators are compiling evidence on the development and use of chemical weapons by Islamic State group extremists in Iraq after they seized about a third of the country in 2014. Investigators also are advancing work on the militant group’s gender-based violence and crimes against children, Sunni and Shiite Muslims, Christians, and Yazidis.

https://apnews.com/article/iraq-islamic-state-chemical-attack-investigations-0f67e98ff0fe083dc1f-001d8674cda3

How Australian cyber spies used ‘Rickrolling’ to disrupt Islamic State militants in Iraq
Andrew Probyn – ABC News: 4 June 2023

“"We quickly came to the conclusion that ISIS’s use of [a global network] was a significant advantage to them. It was a significant component of their strategy. We felt strongly we had to take that away from them, we have to negate it,” says Mike Rogers, director of the United States’ National Security Agency between 2014 and 2018.


For more on this theme:

Al-Qaeda vs ISIS: Competitive Extremism and Turf Wars
https://idsa.in/issuebrief/Al-Qaeda-vs-ISIS-sakidwai-230523

How ISIS ideology is a cocktail of jihadist ideas

Iraq: Admissible Evidence, Competent Courts, Critical To Ensuring Justice For Islamic State Victims

Islamic State-linked Australians held in Syria launch repatriation bid
https://www.timesofisrael.com/islamic-state-linked-australians-held-in-syria-launch-repatriation-bid/

50 Islamic State Fighters, 168 Family Members Repatriated to Iraq

The Islamic State is Alive and Well ... In Africa
TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

IntelBrief: Could the Conflict in Sudan Attract Significant Numbers of Foreign Fighters and Mercenaries?
The Soufan Center: 2 June 2023

Previously an exporter of foreign fighters and mercenaries, Sudan is now at risk of fighters from abroad traveling to the country to engage in combat on one of the belligerent sides.
https://thesoufancenter.org/intelbrief-2023-june-2/

Could the jihadis dismantle the Sahelian state?
Nalova Akua – African Arguments: 7 June 2023

Beleaguered by a decade of Salafi-jihadist attacks, riven by internal grievances and undermined by the corrupt Francafrique system of clientelism and extraction, are the Sahelian states about to collapse?
https://africanarguments.org/2023/06/could-the-jihadis-dismantle-the-sahelian-state/

For more on this theme:
The unexpected success of Somalia’s new fight against Al Shabaab
https://africanarguments.org/2023/05/the-unexpected-success-of-somalias-new-fight-against-al-shabaab/

HTS intensifies security crackdown in northwest Syria in a bid to consolidate rule

Al-Shabaab recruits hungry Somali refugees
https://www.codastory.com/newsletters/somalia-refugees-al-shabaab/

Fighting among Boko Haram Splinters Rages On

‘We are talking about a big war’: Hezbollah leader threatens Israel

Calls to list Russia’s Wagner Group as terrorist organization
https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/breakfast/calls-to-list-russia-s-wagner-group-as-terrorist-organisation/102404526

Russia’s Wagner Group uses Twitter and Facebook to hunt new recruits

Afghanistan: Costs and concerns of the Taliban as a security provider
RUSSIA/UKRAINE

Russia’s war on Ukraine risks ‘cultural genocide,’ experts warn
Veronica Roseborough – The Hill: 2 June 2023

Two weeks after Russian President Vladimir Putin declared Ukraine’s Kherson region as one of “four new regions of Russia,” satellite photographs captured two Russian trucks hauling away roughly 10,000 artifacts from the Kherson Regional Art Museum.

For more on this theme:

Dislodging Putin’s Foothold in the Balkans
https://www.usip.org/publications/2023/06/dislodging-putins-foothold-balkans

Ukraine war: the psychological and political impact of the drone attacks in Russia — an expert explains

Three questions (and expert answers) about the dam collapse in Ukraine

Has Ukraine’s counteroffensive really begun?
https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/content-series/fastthinking/has-ukraines-counteroffensive-really-begun/

Is It Ideology Or Expediency Behind Emerging Russia-China-North Korean Axis Against Backdrop Of Ukraine War? – Analysis

Media Watch: China’s mixed signals on Russo-Ukrainian war

Hype or Hoax: Are Russian Cyber Capabilities Robust Enough to Cripple Ukraine?
https://thestrategybridge.org/the-bridge/2023/6/6/hype-or-hoax-are-russian-cyber-capabilities-robust-enough-to-cripple-ukraine

Russia-Africa Cooperation Still Faces Policy Approach And Financing Challenges

Conflict, Migration, And Demography In Russia And Its Border Regions – Analysis

Studying Russia: Getting the Reckoning Right

Europe Gets Serious About Russian Defeat. At Last.
https://cepa.org/article/europe-gets-serious-about-russian-defeat-at-last/
RUSSIA/UKRAINE

For more on this theme:

**Ghosts in Ukraine's Military Machine**
https://cepa.org/article/ghosts-in-ukraines-military-machine/

**Europe Must Not Dance to Russia's New Tune**
https://cepa.org/article/europe-must-not-dance-to-russias-new-tune/

**Russia's Regime Lured by the Bait of Falsehood**
https://cepa.org/article/russias-regime-lured-by-the-bait-of-falsehood/

**Ukraine's Decolonization and Its Cultural Impact in a Time of War I A Conversation With George F. Kennan Fellow Svitlana Biedarieva**

**Catching Russia Sanctions Busters — From Orbit**
https://cepa.org/article/catching-russia-sanctions-busters-from-orbit/

**Russia's Strategic Failure and Ukraine's Secure Future**
https://www.state.gov/russias-strategic-failure-and-ukraines-secure-future/

**Ukraine Takes the War Deep Into Russia**
https://jamestown.org/program/ukraine-takes-the-war-deep-into-russia/

**Moscow Alarmed by Kyiv's Interest in Russian Far East — and With Good Reason**

**Gloating and Anxiety: How Russians React to War Reaching Their Homes**
https://jamestown.org/program/gloating-and-anxiety-how-russians-react-to-war-reaching-their-homes/

**As Raids Continue, Fractures Are Growing in Russian Border Defenses**
https://jamestown.org/program/as-raids-continue-fractures-are-growing-in-russian-border-defenses/

**Moscow Reorganizing Russian Military for Offensive War and to Protect Putin Regime**
https://jamestown.org/program/moscow-reorganizing-russian-military-for-offensive-war-and-to-protect-putin-regime/

**Russia: Chechen special forces waging offensive in east Ukraine**

**Life along Ukraine's northern border with Russia**

**Russia Has Lost Two-Thirds of Tanks in Ukraine: Intel**
https://www.thedefensepost.com/2023/06/01/russia-lost-tanks-ukraine/

**Unlawful Transfer: Inside The Russian System To Take Ukraine's Children**
RUSSIA/UKRAINE

For more on this theme:

Russia used “starvation tactics” against Ukraine civilians, investigators claim in new war crime allegation

Russian Elite Is Souring on Putin’s Chances of Winning His War

Russians Are Unraveling Before Our Eyes

New evidence suggests Russia deliberately targeting schools in Ukraine

Shaping operations are underway for Ukraine’s counteroffensive against Russia
https://www.npr.org/2023/06/07/1180665199/shaping-operations-are-underway-for-ukraines-counteroffensive-against-russia