

THE MARSHALL CENTER

transnational weekly



A CURRENT AWARENESS SERVICE FROM THE MARSHALL CENTER

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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.

<https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/ukrainealert/the-fight-against-courtroom-corruption-continues-in-war-time-ukraine/>

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.

<https://www.occrp.org/en/daily/17716-brazilian-former-president-collor-sentenced-for-corruption>

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

<https://theconversation.com/corruption-in-south-africa-former-ceos-explosive-book-exposes-how-state-power-utility-was-destroyed-206101>

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

<https://www.jurist.org/news/2023/05/australia-corruption-watchdog-calls-for-audit-of-public-sector-staff-following-investigation/>

Corruption in Spotlight as Pakistan’s Economy Spirals

<https://news.gallup.com/poll/505973/corruption-spotlight-pakistan-economy-spirals.aspx>

Bulgaria agrees to government with rotating PMs to tackle corruption

<https://www.politico.eu/article/bulgaria-finds-government-agreement-with-rotating-pm/>

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

Trafficking 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.

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/06/1137182>

For more on this theme:

Drug trafficking via Golden Triangle on the radar screen

<https://www.phnompenhpost.com/national/drug-trafficking-golden-triangle-radar-screen>

Cryptocurrency Inexorably Linked to the Fentanyl Trade

<https://www.occrp.org/en/daily/17683-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

<https://www.wionews.com/world/cocaine-price-crash-a-blow-for-colombian-coca-growers-596786>

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

<https://www.vice.com/en/article/n7ezpz/world-is-yours-meth-drugs-manipur-india-addiction>

White House vows an improved effort against drug overdoses

<https://www.reuters.com/world/us/white-house-vows-an-improved-effort-against-drug-overdoses-2023-06-06/>

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?

https://www.rigzone.com/news/does_the_global_drug_trafficking_industry_affect_oil_and_gas-06-jun-2023-172979-article/

Inside the Taliban's war on drugs – opium poppy crops slashed

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-65787391>

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.

<https://www.irrawaddy.com/news/burma/illegal-mining-boom-poisoning-land-feeding-myanmar-juntas-war-machine-mmwn.html>

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.

<https://dialogo-americas.com/articles/colombian-gold-enriches-criminal-groups-impoverishes-soil-and-population/>

For more on this theme:

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

<https://news.mongabay.com/2023/05/venezuelas-hidden-runways-bring-both-life-and-destruction-to-indigenous-lands/>

Illegal trawling ravages Tunisian seagrass meadows crucial for fish

<https://news.mongabay.com/2023/05/illegal-trawling-ravages-tunisian-seagrass-meadows-crucial-for-fish/>

Japan Poised to Lead on Fisheries Oversight in Pacific

<https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/articles/2023/05/24/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

<https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/us-says-mexico-failed-stop-illegal-wildlife-trade-threatening-vaquita-2023-05-26/>

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

<https://news.fiu.edu/2023/illegal-wildlife-trade-study-finds-removing-several-ports-from-the-network-would-disrupt-trade>

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>

PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

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.

<https://cepa.org/article/an-ai-challenge-balancing-open-and-closed-systems/>

For more on this theme:

(Bangladesh) Experts for more women participation in internet governance

<https://www.daily-sun.com/post/692161/Experts-for-more-women-participation-in-internet-governance>

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

<https://techpolicy.press/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.

<https://www.csmonitor.com/World/2023/0525/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.

<https://news.yahoo.com/us-sanctions-target-irans-internet-145145925.html>

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

<https://www.techjuice.pk/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

<https://cio.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/digital-security/cybersecurity-mission-from-usa-in-india-to-enhance-cyber-ability-of-the-2-countries/100489122>

(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

<https://www.brookings.edu/research/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.

<https://www.nextgov.com/cybersecurity/2023/05/dod-submits-classified-cyber-strategy-congress/386849/>

For more on this theme:

(Ukraine) Ukraine's Cyber Defense Success: Top Takeaways

<https://www.bankinfosecurity.com/blogs/ukraines-cyber-defense-success-top-takeaways-p-3447>

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

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/cybersecurity/news/eu-countries-give-lukewarm-reception-to-cyber-defence-strategy/>

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

<https://www.thequint.com/opinion/how-indias-cyber-diplomacy-strategies-are-gaining-global-momentum>

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

<https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/ukrainealert/ukraines-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

<https://aithority.com/machine-learning/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

<https://www.thestreet.com/cryptocurrency/news/irs-crypto-crime-cyber-attaches>

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

<https://securityintelligence.com/news/10-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

<https://www.news.az/news/protection-of-critical-information-infrastructure-among-priorities-of-azerbaijani-state-official-says>

PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

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-001d8674cdaf3>

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.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-06-05/australian-cyber-spies-disrupted-islamic-state-militants/102425324>

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

<https://www.indianarrative.com/opinion-news/how-isis-ideology-is-a-cocktail-of-jihadist-ideas-143844.html>

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

<https://www.eurasiareview.com/08062023-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

<https://www.voanews.com/a/islamic-state-fighters-168-family-members-repatriated-to-iraq-/7122119.html>

The Islamic State is Alive and Well ... In Africa

<https://www.meforum.org/64491/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 Francophone 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

<https://www.newarab.com/news/jihadist-group-hts-cracks-down-rivals-northwest-syria>

Al-Shabaab recruits hungry Somali refugees

<https://www.codastory.com/newsletters/somalia-refugees-al-shabaab/>

Fighting among Boko Haram Splinters Rages On

<https://www.crisisgroup.org/africa/west-africa/nigeria/fighting-among-boko-haram-splinters-rages>

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

<https://www.i24news.tv/en/news/middle-east/levant-turkey/1685081896-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

<https://www.politico.eu/article/russia-ukraine-war-mercenaries-wagner-group-recruit-twitter-facebook-yevgeny-prigozhin/>

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

<https://www.orfonline.org/expert-speak/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.

<https://news.yahoo.com/russia-war-ukraine-risks-cultural-004435156.html>

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

<https://theconversation.com/ukraine-war-the-psychological-and-political-impact-of-the-drone-attacks-in-russia-an-expert-explains-207058>

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

<https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/new-atlanticist/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

<https://www.eurasiareview.com/03062023-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

<https://www.rfa.org/english/news/afcl/afcl-ukraine-war-06072023105056.html>

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

<https://www.eurasiareview.com/06062023-russia-africa-cooperation-still-faces-policy-approach-and-financing-challenges-analysis/>

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

<https://www.eurasiareview.com/06062023-conflict-migration-and-demography-in-russia-and-its-border-regions-analysis/>

Studying Russia: Getting the Reckoning Right

<https://icds.ee/en/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 | A Conversation With George F. Kennan Fellow Svitlana Biedarieva

<https://www.wilsoncenter.org/article/ukraines-decolonization-and-its-cultural-impact-time-war-conversation-george-f-kennan>

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

<https://jamestown.org/program/moscow-alarmed-by-kyivs-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

<https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/russia-chechen-special-forces-waging-offensive-east-ukraine-2023-06-02/>

Life along Ukraine's northern border with Russia

<https://www.politico.eu/article/life-along-ukraine-northern-border-with-russia-war/>

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

<https://www.rferl.org/a/inside-russian-system-taking-ukraine-children/32437567.html>

RUSSIA/UKRAINE

For more on this theme:

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

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/russia-ukraine-war-crime-starvation-tactics-civilians-investigators/>

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

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2023-06-08/will-putin-win-the-war-in-ukraine-the-russian-elite-isn-t-convinced#xj4y7vzkg>

Russians Are Unraveling Before Our Eyes

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2023/06/06/russia-ukaine-war-putin-counteroffensive-belgorod-border-drones-moscow/>

New evidence suggests Russia deliberately targeting schools in Ukraine

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-06-05/evidence-suggests-russia-targeting-ukraine-schools/102424458>

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>