THE MARSHALL CENTER

transnational Weekly



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COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

Corruption Is a Growing Threat to Africa's Precarious Economies

Lisa Vives - InDepthNews: 12 June 2023

Declining profits from oil and gas production may no longer be sufficient to cover up weaknesses in African economies, including surging food prices, food insecurity and corruption.

https://www.indepthnews.net/index.php/the-world/africa/6238-corruption-is-a-growing-threat-to-africa-s-precarious-economies

Arresting Corruption in Tunisia

Majed Karoui - Carnegie: 1 June 2023

The recent campaign against corruption in Tunisia has spiraled into a crackdown on Kais Saied's political opposition and sparked controversy about the rule of law.

https://carnegieendowment.org/sada/89869

For more on this theme:

Meloni's top man in EU parliament settles corruption case with prosecutors

https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/melonis-top-man-eu-parliament-settles-corruption-case-with-prosecutors-2023-06-08/

South Africa's ruling party expels former top official accused of corruption

https://abcnews.go.com/Business/wireStory/south-africas-ruling-party-expels-former-top-official-100016301

Government Corruption Exposed After Mexican Journalist Was Abducted

https://www.occrp.org/en/daily/17714-government-corruption-exposed-after-mexican-journalist-was-abducted

Riad Salameh is Now the Face of Lebanon's Corruption Problem

https://nationalinterest.org/blog/lebanon-watch/riad-salameh-now-face-lebanon%E2%80%99s-corruption-problem-206546

Corruption in Hong Kong soccer league meets its match

https://www.theglobeandmail.com/sports/article-corruption-in-hong-kong-soccer-league-meets-its-match/

Ukraine: EU Anti-corruption Initiative and Ministry for Restoration launch Integrity Support Group

https://euneighbourseast.eu/news/latest-news/ukraine-eu-anti-corruption-initiative-and-ministry-for-restoration-launch-integrity-support-group/

Argentine judge dismisses long-running corruption case against vice president

https://apnews.com/article/cristina-kirchner-corruption-casanello-trail-7f91 ded 6e47 dde 7819 e9215 cbf-d3942 c

Mongolia embroiled in a major corruption scandal over the allocation of educational loans

https://global voices.org/2023/05/29/mongolia-embroiled-in-a-major-corruption-scandal-over-the-allocation-of-educational-loans/

DRUG TRAFFICKING

Can the US disrupt Syria's Iucrative Captagon drug empire?

Paul Iddon - The New Arab: 8 June 2023

The Biden administration is set to unveil a new interagency strategy to combat the Syrian regime's multibillion-dollar drug trade.

https://www.newarab.com/analysis/can-us-disrupt-syrias-lucrative-captagon-drug-empire

The plant at the root of Iran's meth market

Laura Adal and Sarah Fares – Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime: 9 June 2023

Having long hosted Western Asia's largest methamphetamine market, Iran for decades has employed an aggressive multimillion-dollar campaign to curb the trade. The discovery, however, of the ephedra plant in neighboring Afghanistan — a source of ephedrine, a key ingredient for the drug — threatens to undermine Tehran's efforts.

https://globalinitiative.net/analysis/iran-meth-ephedra-plant-afghanistan-ephedrine/

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Jordan Intercepts Drug-Laden Drone From Syria

https://themedialine.org/headlines/jordan-intercepts-drug-laden-drone-from-syria/

How Influx Of Drugs In North-East India From Myanmar Has Become A Huge Menace

https://www.indiatimes.com/news/india/how-influx-of-drugs-in-north-east-india-from-myanmar-has-become-a-huge-menace-604703.html

Chiapas Bleeds as CJNG, Sinaloa Cartel Fight for Guatemala Trafficking Routes

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Narco-Subs: A Game of Hide-and-Seek

https://www.afcea.org/signal-media/technology/narco-subs-game-hide-and-seek

The Taliban's Successful Opium Ban is Bad for Afghans and the World

https://www.usip.org/publications/2023/06/talibans-successful-opium-ban-bad-afghans-and-world

Why Manipur's civil war is being linked to the narcotics trade

https://scroll.in/article/1050773/poppy-in-the-hills-why-manipurs-civil-war-is-being-linked-to-narcotics-trade

International drugs ring smuggled cocaine in surfboards

https://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-65902483

Cocaine Seizures Spike in Sweden as Traffickers Seek Secondary Routes

https://insightcrime.org/news/cocaine-seizures-spike-sweden-traffickers-seek-secondary-routes/

Drug syndicate hid meth in Canadian maple syrup, canola oil bound for Down Under, authorities say

https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/drug-syndicate-hid-meth-canadian-maple-syrup-canola-100091832

TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES.

Brazil's indigenous infant mortality rate linked to illegal mining

Ashima Sharma - Mining Technology: 8 June 2023

The infant mortality rate in Brazil's largest reservation, Yanomami, has increased by 16% since 2022, spurred by mercury contamination from mining activities.

https://www.mining-technology.com/news/brazil-illegal-mining-linked-to-infant-mortality/

Illegal fishing is now a bigger threat to the ocean than piracy – here's why it matters ClientEarth Communications: 8 June 2023

Despite a growing set of rules designed to regulate and manage the exploitation of the ocean, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing is rampant. It represents as much as 20% of the global catch and the annual loss to the global economy as these fish "leak" from the system is estimated at \$26 billion to \$50 billion.

https://www.clientearth.org/latest/latest-updates/stories/illegal-fishing-is-now-a-bigger-threat-to-theocean-than-piracy-here-s-why-it-matters/

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The Role of Al in Wildlife Conservation: Tracking, Monitoring, and Analysis

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https://www.occrp.org/en/daily/17685-report-alarming-levels-of-wildlife-trafficking-in-southeast-asia-seas

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Can satellite imagery fight illegal logging in Mexico?

https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/5/26/can-satellite-imagery-fight-illegal-logging-in-mexico

Forest behind bars: Logging network operating out of Cambodian prison in the Cardamoms

https://news.mongabay.com/2023/05/forest-behind-bars-logging-network-operating-out-of-cambodian-prison-in-the-cardamoms/

Forest conservation efforts in Peru are failing across the board, study says

https://news.mongabay.com/2023/05/forest-conservation-efforts-in-peru-are-failing-across-the-boardstudy-says/

Indonesia eyes enrolling more ports in fight against illegal fishing

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How disappearing ships could hold the clue to stopping illegal fishing

https://www.postguam.com/the_globe/world/how-disappearing-ships-could-hold-the-clue-to-stopping-illegal-fishing/article_755dbb70-fc2e-11ed-af95-238bcc2f0269.html

Protesters clash with soldiers at Ghana gold mining town

https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/5/31/protesters-clash-with-soldiers-at-ghana-gold-mining-town

PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

INTERNET GOVERNANCE

Multilateral internet: Unplugged and somewhat slightly dazed

Julian Ringhof – European Council of Foreign Relations: 7 June 2023

To prevent the web from splintering into regional nets, the EU should safeguard the principles of current internet governance while becoming more open to inclusive reform.

https://ecfr.eu/article/multilateral-internet-unplugged-and-somewhat-slightly-dazed/

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(Global) Is artificial intelligence about to be regulated?

https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/is-artificial-intelligence-about-to-be-regulated/

(Global) Fragment or Not Fragment – Is This the Question? Will the "One World-One Internet" Survive Today's Geopolitical Stress Tests?

https://circleid.com/posts/20230606-fragment-or-not-fragment-is-this-the-question-will-one-world-one-internet-survive-todays-geopolitical-stress-tests

(Global) What Al Governance Can Learn From Crypto's Decentralization Ethos

https://www.coindesk.com/consensus-magazine/2023/06/02/what-ai-governance-can-learn-from-cryptos-decentralization-ethos/

INTERNET FREEDOM

US sanctions Iranian firm over internet censorship

Al-Monitor: 2 June 2023

The U.S. Treasury Department announced sanctions targeting an Iranian company accused of supporting internet censorship.

https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2023/06/us-sanctions-iranian-firm-over-internet-censorship

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(Africa) 5 African countries pledged to uphold free internet in 2021 but broke that promise

https://technext24.com/2023/06/02/african-countries-stopping-the-internet/

(Senegal) Senegal's internet shutdown threatens business losses

https://african.business/2023/06/technology-information/senegals-internet-shutdown-threatens-business-losses

(Guinea) Internet blackout in Guinea fuels suspicions of junta role

https://www.macaubusiness.com/internet-blackout-in-guinea-fuels-suspicions-of-junta-role/

(Global) Satellite Internet Technology: A Solution to Internet Censorship and Surveillance?

https://citylife.capetown/uncategorized/satellite-internet-technology-a-solution-to-internet-censor-ship-and-surveillance/71122/

CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING

Africa Data Centres Strengthening Internet Connectivity by Harnessing the Power of IXPs

Justice Godfrey Okamgba – TechEconomy: 11 June 2023

Africa Data Centres, in partnership with Internet Exchange Point of Nigeria and Workonline Communications Group, organized an exclusive peering workshop for industry stakeholders.

https://techeconomy.ng/africa-data-centres-strengthening-internet-connectivity-by-harnessing-the-power-of-ixps/

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(Asia-Pacific) Australia's opportunity to help close the Pacific's digital divide

https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/australias-opportunity-to-help-close-the-pacifics-digital-divide/

(Namibia) Namibia embraces e-governance for a modern future

https://neweralive.na/posts/namibia-embraces-e-governance-for-a-modern-future

(Africa) Africa Can Enhance Governance Structures With Blockchain, Says Jassy Kabanihiza Ebwanyu

https://guardian.ng/technology/africa-can-enhance-governance-structures-with-blockchain-says-jassy-ka-banihiza-ebwanyu/

(India) India: Back To The Future: India's Proposed Digital Governance Framework

https://www.mondaq.com/india/data-protection/1324188/back-to-the-future-indias-proposed-digital-governance-framework

CYBERATTACKS

Cybercrime gang hits BA, Boots and BBC with ultimatum after mass hack

Alex Hern – The Guardian: 7 June 2023

The Russian-speaking Clop group demands ransom negotiations after stealing data from thousands of staffers.

https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2023/jun/07/cybercrime-clop-ultimatum-british-airways-boots-bbc-mass-hack

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(Switzerland) Swiss Government Targeted by Series of Cyber-Attacks

https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/news/swiss-government-targeted-series/

(Germany) Cyberattack on German university takes 'entire IT infrastructure' offline

https://therecord.media/ransomware-attack-kaiserslautern-university-applied-sciences-germany

(Martinique) Caribbean island of Martinique dealing with cyberattack that disrupted government services

https://therecord.media/martinique-dealing-with-cyberattack-that-disrupted-government-services-france

(Germany) War in Ukraine Prompts Hike in Cyber Attacks on German Businesses

https://www.insurancejournal.com/news/international/2023/06/12/724801.htm

CYBERCRIME

How Global Information Sharing Can Help Stop Cybercrime

Michael Daniel - Harvard Business Review: 8 June 2023

While reliable statistics are difficult to come by, estimates of the global cost of cybercrime ranges as high as tens of trillions of dollars annually. Regardless of the precise figure, cybercrime clearly drains significant resources from the global economy and poses a substantial threat to security and prosperity.

https://hbr.org/2023/06/how-global-information-sharing-can-help-stop-cybercrime

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(Global) Global Alert: Cyber Crime Threatens 80% of Employees

https://www.itnewsafrica.com/2023/06/global-alert-cyber-crime-threatens-80-of-employees/

(Global) Combating the cyber heists that are costing the global economy

https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/combating-the-cyber-heists-that-are-costing-the-global-economy/

(Global) Asylum Ambuscade: A Cybercrime Group with Espionage Ambitions

https://thehackernews.com/2023/06/asylum-ambuscade-cybercrime-group-with.html

(Global) The Complexities of Hacking: Exploring the thin line between cybercrime and ethical hacking

https://www.euronews.com/next/2023/06/09/the-complexities-of-hacking-exploring-the-thin-line-between-cybercrime-and-ethical-hacking

CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION

Experts call for overhaul of 'outdated' critical infrastructure cyber policy

Alexandra Kelley – Nextgov: 7 June 2023

A new report analyzes the U.S. government's approach to infrastructure cybersecurity.

https://www.nextgov.com/cybersecurity/2023/06/experts-call-overhaul-outdated-critical-infrastructure-cyber-policy/387205/

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(Global) Dark Web Threats Target Energy Industry as Cybercrime Tactics Shift

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(Global) 10 notable critical infrastructure cybersecurity initiatives in 2023

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(U.S., China) Americans should prepare for cyber sabotage from Chinese hackers, US official warns

https://www.reuters.com/world/americans-should-prepare-cyber-sabotage-chinese-hackers-us-official-warns-2023-06-12/

PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

ISIS AND FOREIGN FIGHTERS

The Growing Threat of the Islamic State in Afghanistan and South Asia

Abdul Sayed and Tore Refslund Hamming – United States Institute of Peace: 7 June 2023

Since the Taliban returned to power in Afghanistan, the threat posed by terrorism in the region has grown. The primary threat, however, is neither the Taliban nor their close ally al-Qaida, but the Islamic State group's regional affiliate.

https://www.usip.org/publications/2023/06/growing-threat-islamic-state-afghanistan-and-south-asia

Syrian Kurds Launch New Attempt to Prosecute Captured IS Foreign Fighters

Jeff Seldin – Voice of America: 15 June 2023

Trials of thousands of foreign Islamic State group fighters imprisoned in Syria are set to begin within a "few days," local authorities said.

https://www.telegraph.co.uk/world-news/2023/06/11/syria-islamic-state-foreign-fighters-trials-to-begin/

For more on this theme:

Islamic State claims responsibility for Afghanistan mosque blast

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Blinken: Islamic State Fight 'Not Yet Done'

https://www.voanews.com/a/blinken-islamic-state-fight-not-yet-done-/7128122.html

Terrorist Designation of ISIS General Directorate of Provinces Leaders

https://www.state.gov/terrorist-designation-of-isis-general-directorate-of-provinces-leaders/

SDF hands over dozens of ISIS terrorists to Iraq

https://www.iraqinews.com/iraq/sdf-hands-over-dozens-of-isis-terrorists-to-iraq/

Islamic State leader for Southeast Asia killed in Marawi

https://www.benarnews.org/english/news/philippine/philippines-islamic-state-leader-killed-marawi-06142023035156.html

Iraq urges countries to repatriate their citizens from camp housing families of extremist IS group

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Islamic State 'still a threat,' says Belgian Foreign Affairs Minister

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IS-K Leader in Afghanistan Reported Dead

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Fursan al-Tarjuma Carries the Torch of Islamic State's Media Jihad

https://gnet-research.org/2023/06/05/fursan-al-tarjuma-carries-the-torch-of-islamic-states-media-jihad/

TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

Al Qaeda leaders are prominently serving in Taliban government

Bill Roggio - The Long War Journal: 11 June 2023

Among the al-Qaida members serving in the "Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan" are two provincial governors, the deputy director of the general directorate of intelligence and a training director in the ministry of defense.

https://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2023/06/al-qaeda-leaders-are-prominently-serving-in-taliban-government.php

Has Indonesia's deradicalisation program done enough to combat terrorism?

William Frangia - The Strategist: 14 June 2023

An increasing number of Indonesian prisoners convicted of terrorism-related offenses are completing their prison terms. The success of these programs will determine the future security of Southeast Asia.

https://www.aspistrategist.org. au/has-indonesias-deradicalisation-program-done-enough-to-combat-terrorism/

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Al-Qaeda releases new video of 'seriously ill' UN worker abducted in Yemen

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Iran and Taliban readying for war: What's different this time?

https://www.mei.edu/events/iran-and-taliban-readying-war-whats-different-time

Taliban in Focus: A 6-Month Forecast

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Afghanistan: Link Of Taliban With Al-Qaeda Strong, Terrorists' Free Movement Raises Threats In The Region

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Islamic Jihad Begins Military Summer Camp for Palestinian Youth

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Al Qaeda actively operating training camps in 5 Afghan provinces

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Analysis: Shabaab takes advantage of slowed counter-offensive

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The Taliban Are Who We Thought They Were

https://www.thebulwark.com/the-taliban-are-who-we-thought-they-were/

CRIME AND CONFLICT

Russian war crimes investigations must drive a stronger commitment to justice

Shivangi Seth - The Strategist: 13 June 2023

The international community's efforts to enforce accountability for Russia's illegal war in Ukraine are vital to achieve justice for Ukrainians.

https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/russian-war-crimes-investigations-must-drive-a-stronger-commitmentto-justice-in-all-conflicts/

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Tracking the Evolution of Conflict: Barometers for Interstate and Civil Conflict

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Sudan: Attacks based on ethnicity may amount to war crimes

https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/06/1137647

War crimes committed through cyberspace must not escape international justice, says Estonian president

https://therecord.media/war-crimes-cyberspace-cycon-estonia-president-alar-karis

Police believe Ukraine war has triggered a crime wave ... in rural England

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Ethiopia rejects 'ethnic cleansing' accusation in western Tigray

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Gendered impact of the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic on women and girls

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ICC: the never-ending nightmare of Darfur's victims

https://www.justiceinfo.net/en/117996-icc-nightmare-darfur-victims.html

The ICC's 2022 Gender Persecution Policy in Context: An Important Next **Step Forward**

https://www.justsecurity.org/86760/the-iccs-2022-gender-persecution-policy-in-context-an-importantnext-step-forward/

CRIME AND CONFLICT

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Afghanistan: Taliban's cruel attacks in Panjshir province amount to war crime of collective punishment – new report

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Canada, Netherlands take Syria to court on torture claims

https://www.courthousenews.com/canada-netherlands-take-syria-to-court-on-torture-claims/

Ukraine dam blast 'probably a war crime,' but not clear-cut. Here's why

https://globalnews.ca/news/9761997/ukraine-dam-kakhovka-war-crime/

Nepal: Maoist child combatants file case against PM Pushpa Kamal Dahal, former PM Bhattarai alleging "war crimes"

https://www.devdiscourse.com/article/international/2484689-nepal-maoist-child-combatants-file-caseagainst-pm-pushpa-kamal-dahal-former-pm-bhattarai-alleging-war-crimes

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How Grenades Became a Common Part of Venezuela's Criminal Arsenal

https://insightcrime.org/news/grenades-common-part-venezuela-criminal-arsenal/

Switzerland convicts Liberian warlord in landmark case

https://www.dw.com/en/switzerland-convicts-liberian-warlord-in-landmark-case/a-65798861

DRC, ICC to strengthen cooperation in fight against war crimes impunity

https://www.africanews.com/2023/06/02/drc-icc-to-strengthen-cooperation-in-fight-against-war-crimes-im-

Ukraine 'Azov regiment' prisoners of war go on trial in Russia

https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/6/15/ukraine-azov-regiment-prisoners-of-war-go-on-trial-in-russia

The dam has burst: How Russia's war on Ukraine could make ecocide an international crime

https://ecfr.eu/article/the-dam-has-burst-how-russias-war-on-ukraine-could-make-ecocide-an-internationalcrime/

RUSSIA/UKRAINE

Ukraine's Zelenskyy confirms that an offensive against Russia is underway

Greg Myre - NPR: 10 June 2023

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy gave his first formal confirmation of the long-awaited action.

https://www.npr.org/2023/06/10/1181512637/zelenskyy-ukraine-counteroffensive

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Ukraine's Counteroffensive Offers Golden Opportunity to Overcome Its History

https://www.thecipherbrief.com/column/cipher-brief-expert-view/ukraines-counteroffensive-offers-golden-opportunity-to-overcome-its-history

IntelBrief: Ukraine's Counteroffensive Will Determine the Future Shape of the Conflict

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A North-South Corridor on Putin's Dime: Why Russia Is Bankrolling Iran's Infrastructure

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A New Potemkin Vote in Occupied Ukraine

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How Putin's War Became Russia's War

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Sacrificing Art for War: The Handover of Russia's Trinity Icon

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Envisioning a Long-Term Security Arrangement for Ukraine

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For a Future Peaceful Russia, Engage its Exiles Now

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15 Months on, Ukrainians Remain United on Freedom, Rule of Law

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Russian parliament backs army recruitment of criminals for Ukraine conflict

https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/russian-parliament-is-expected-back-army-recruitment-criminals-ukraine-conflict-2023-06-14/

Ukraine war: Russia moves to take direct control of Wagner Group

https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-65871232

RUSSIA/UKRAINF

For more on this theme:

France accuses Russia of faking websites to sow confusion and disinformation about Ukraine war

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Beyond the counteroffensive: 84% of Ukrainians are ready for a long war

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Aftershock: Ukraine Can Win the War but Lose the Peace

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Russia/Ukraine

For more on this theme:

Occupying More of Ukraine Will Bring More Problems for Russia

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Ukraine Needs to Secure Its Maritime Future: 'Mosquito Fleet' Provides a Viable Strategy

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