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
- Cybercrime

PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)
- ISIS and Foreign Fighters
- Terrorism Around the World
- Crime and Conflict
- Russia/Ukraine
COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

What’s in Mongolia’s New Anti-Corruption Strategy?
Bolor Lkhajav – The Diplomat: 8 June 2023
The proposal aims to address a perennial issue through increased whistleblower protections, transparency measures and international cooperation.

Police raid Paris 2024 Olympics HQ in corruption probe
Zoé Courtois, Paul de Villepin, Océane Herrero and Nicolas Camut – Politico: 20 June 2023
French financial police searched the headquarters as part of an investigation into the awarding of public contracts.

For more on this theme:
El Salvador president pledges white-collar prison in ‘war’ on corruption
https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/el-salvador-president-pledges-white-collar-prison-war-corruption-2023-06-02/

Italy Seizes Ferries and Money on Charges of Public Corruption

Wildfire in Kazakhstan Sparks Corruption Complaints

Corruption in South Sudan’s Gold Sector Bleeding its Miners Dry

Fed up with corruption, North Koreans are attacking police, secret document shows

Police corruption should be a focus in tackling stock theft
https://issafrica.org/iss-today/police-corruption-should-be-a-focus-in-tackling-stock-theft

Corruption is China weapon in effort to corner lithium market in Latin America, experts say

Turkmenistan’s cotton industry remains blighted by forced labour and corruption

Honduras: Strong Action Needed on Corruption

AU panel: Africa must unite to fight corruption | Poorest citizens worst hit
DRUG TRAFFICKING

Why Bolivia’s $215 Million Radars Are Not Targeting Drug Flights
Sean Doherty – InSight Crime: 19 June 2023


Drug violence displaces Indigenous families from homes in southern Chihuahua
Julian Resendiz – KXAN: 19 June 2023


For more on this theme:
On International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, Secretary-General Calls for Cracking Down on Traffickers, Re-allocating Resources to Treatment https://press.un.org/en/2023/sgsm21848.doc.htm

Guatemala Elections: A Blurry Line Between Politics and Drugs

A little white pill, Captagon, gives Syria’s Assad a strong tool in winning over Arab states
https://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory/white-pill-captagon-syras-assad-strong-tool-winning-99954020

What Is Behind Wave of Homicides in Ciudad Juárez, Mexico?

Drug Cartels Terrorist Organizations Threaten U.S. Security

Forough Amin: NZ’s drug problem and Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps

NAFDAC: We can track peddlers, users of illicit drugs anywhere in Nigeria
https://www.thecable.ng/nafdac-we-can-track-peddlers-users-of-illicit-drugs-anywhere-in-nigeria

Mexican Sinaloa Cartel Sets Up Fentanyl ‘Kitchens’ in Colombia Amid Global Crackdown on Drug Trade

Bolivia accused of becoming a narco-state
TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

**Illegal settlements, hunting and logging threaten a state reserve in Mexico**
Thelma Gómez Durán – Mongabay: 8 June 2023

The Balam-Kú State Reserve is facing strong pressure from illegal activities. Most of this forest loss is happening in Candelaria, where illegal settlers are clearing forests for ranching and agriculture.


**License to Log: Cambodian military facilitates logging on Koh Kong Krao and across the Cardamoms**
Gerald Flynn – Mongabay: 6 June 2023

Cambodia’s largest island is covered in largely untouched old-growth forest, but recent satellite imagery shows deforestation is spreading. Much of the loss is in areas controlled by Marine Brigade 2, a Navy unit that has historically been accused of facilitating the illicit timber trade.


For more on this theme:

**Mechanized destruction of Brazil’s Amazon is rising, but not inevitable**

**Illegal mining: the scourge continues unabated**

**Can an app help Liberian artisanal fishers fight illegal fishing?**

‘You’re looking to die’: the Brazil river where illegal fishing threatens lives

**Illegal fishing for fish meal widespread in Ecuador marine reserve**

**Illuminating dark seas: Why fisheries management must be more transparent**

**Is an answer to global overfishing and its subsidies on the horizon?**

**Meet the ex-poachers restoring the Indonesian coral reefs they destroyed**

**Wildlife Money Trails**
https://www.traffic.org/publications/reports/wildlife-money-trails/
INTERNET GOVERNANCE

**AI 'Model Collapse' Highlights Need for AI Data Governance**
*PYMNTS: 21 June 2023*

Despite its alleged risk to humanity, artificial intelligence's biggest threat may be to itself.  

*For more on this theme:*

*(Global) Can the European Union Still Be Trusted to Regulate the Internet?*  
https://www.lawfareblog.com/can-european-union-still-be-trusted-regulate-internet

*(Africa) What can African countries do to regulate artificial intelligence?*  

*(Global) What is the ‘splinternet’? Here’s why the internet is less whole than you might think*  

INTERNET FREEDOM

**China’s 360 explains how generative AI adapts to censorship during unveiling of its ChatGPT rival**
*Coco Feng – South China Morning Post: 15 June 2023*

If a user inputs a “sensitive word,” the chatbot’s filtering and moderation system will end the conversation immediately in compliance with Beijing’s censorship rules. China’s local ChatGPT-style services have embedded certain functions to avoid answering uncomfortable questions.  

*For more on this theme:*

*(China) Chinese censors take aim at AirDrop and Bluetooth*  

*(Global) Economic impact of internet shutdowns from 2019-2023 as governments get bolder*  

*(China) Chinese activist missing from Vientiane after launching anti-censorship campaign*  
CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING

DOJ establishes cybercrime enforcement unit as U.S. warnings mount over Chinese hacking
AJ Vicens – CyberScoop: 20 June 2023

A senior Department of Justice official said the center will speed up disruption campaigns and prosecutions.
https://cyberscoop.com/doj-establishes-cybercrime-enforcement-unit-natseccyber/

For more on this theme:
(Qatar) Qatar to house UN regional centre for combating cybercrime
https://dohanews.co/qatar-to-house-un-regional-centre-for-combating-cybercrime/

(Ghana) Cyber Security Authority critical to Ghana's development – Joseph Cudjoe

(Turkey) How Türkiye can gear up to counter the coming cybersecurity challenge

CYBER STRATEGY AND RISKS

TikTok and Beyond: How China's Ascendancy in Digital Technology Challenges the Global Order
Marina Yue Zhang – The Diplomat: 3 June 2023

The success of the video-sharing site is more than just a business narrative; it symbolizes the competition for influence in cyberspace.

For more on this theme:
(U.S.) Pentagon Promising to Unleash Cyber Campaigns if Needed

(Estonia, Global) Estonian formin: We need more cyber diplomats to ensure security in cyberspace
https://www.baltictimes.com/estonian_formin__we_need_more_cyber_diplomats_to Ensure_security_in_cyberspace/

(U.S.) The National Cybersecurity Strategy: Breaking a 50-Year Losing Streak

(Canada) Canada implements cyber security certification to safeguard defence industry
CYBERATTACKS

Moveit hack: attack on BBC and BA offers glimpse into the future of cybercrime
Danny Steed and Robert Black – The Conversation: 19 June 2023

British Airways, the BBC, Ofcom and Boots were among the organizations that reportedly were victims of a major cyberattack, resulting in the breach of numerous staff details.


For more on this theme:

(Nigeria, South Africa, Kenya) Nigeria, South Africa, and Kenya rank among top 100 for global online threats — report

(Global) Dutch Foreign Minister Wopke Hoekstra urges for a new international cyber strategy: “We are under constant attack from Russia and China”

(U.S., Russia, Global) Info from dozens of companies, millions of Americans compromised by Russian-speaking cybercrime group

(New Zealand) New Zealand’s Smartpay Hit With Ransomware in Latest Antipodean Cyber Attack

CYBERCRIME

How Do Cyber Criminals Launder Money?
Zac Amos – Hackernoon: 16 June 2023

Cybercrime is a booming business. As one might expect from illegal activity, though, profiting from it can be a little more complicated than running a traditional company. Criminals must first learn how to clean dirty money.


For more on this theme:

(China) Suspected Chinese gangs luring job seekers into committing cybercrime: Report

(ISrael) 90% of Israelis don't report cyber crime to police – comptroller
https://www.jpost.com/conferences/article-745319

(Global) Trend Micro: Cybercrime groups adopt corporate-like setup
https://backendnews.net/trend-micro-cybercrime-groups-adopt-corporate-like-setup/
PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

ISIS AND FOREIGN FIGHTERS

Is Isis preparing to exploit Europe's open borders?

Gavin Mortimer – The Spectator: 18 June 2023

While the Islamic State group no longer has a caliphate as it did from 2014 to 2019, it still has fanatical followers scattered in Iraq, Syria and Afghanistan.

https://www.spectator.co.uk/article/is-isis-preparing-to-exploit-europes-open-borders/

ISWAP’s High-Speed Internet Access, Experiment With Drones Worrisome – Bukarti

Oluwatobi Aworinde – ChannelsTV: 16 June 2023

Bulama Bukarti, a senior fellow at the Tony Blair Institute for Global Change, has raised the alarm over the acquisition of online capability by the Islamic State’s West Africa Province and its possible use in intelligence-gathering and even combat.


For more on this theme:

ISIS Sympathisers Plotted to Attack Vienna Pride, Cops Say


ISIS-linked rebel group attacks Ugandan school, killing dozens


Counter ISIS Finance Group Leaders Issue Joint Statement


Fresh Attacks Put Spotlight On Afghanistan’s Northeast As IS-K Stomping, Recruiting Ground

https://www.rferl.org/a/afghanistan-taliban-badakhshan-is-k/32460999.html

Focus on Al Qaeda in Syria should also extend to Daesh

http://www.jordantimes.com/opinion/amer-al-sabaileh/focus-al-qaeda-syria-should-also-extend-daesh

ISIS keeps dwindling in Syria

https://www.gisreportsonline.com/r/syria-isis-terrorism/

The Elimination of Sanaullah Ghafari: A Major Blow to ISIS-K

https://moderndiplomacy.eu/2023/06/12/the-elimination-of-sanaullah-ghafari-a-major-blow-to-isis-k/

The Hunt: ISIS remains a major threat despite no longer making big headlines


“ISIS detainees and their supporters must be prosecuted as well.”

TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

Counter-terrorism experts say Africa is the world's terrorism hot spot with half of 2022’s victims

Counterterrorism experts said those victims were killed in Sub-Saharan Africa, though al-Qaida and Islamic State group affiliates remain active around the globe.


UN warns of risk of terrorism from Afghanistan
Amin Saikal – The Strategist: 21 June 2023

A United Nations report provides a stark warning about the danger of Taliban rule. It says the group has not only instituted a reign of terror, but has brazenly accommodated al-Qaida and other terrorists.


For more on this theme:
IntelBrief: UN Global Counterterrorism Strategy to be Adopted During UN “CT Week”
https://thesoufancenter.org/intelbrief-2023-june-19/

Some offenders are too dangerous to be freed

Burkina Faso: Upsurge in Atrocities by Islamist Armed Groups

South Africa: a hub for jihadism funding?
https://www.africanews.com/2023/06/13/south-africa-a-hub-for-jihadism-funding/

How Boko Haram is carrying out recruitment in Nigeria — Researcher

IntelBrief: Addressing Terrorist Exploitation of Crises and Disaster
https://thesoufancenter.org/intelbrief-2023-june-12/

Hamas: From Resistance to Restraint?
https://carnegieendowment.org/sada/89951

Thwarting nuclear terrorism through data-sharing
https://armscontrolcenter.org/thwarting-nuclear-terrorism-through-data-sharing/

The TTP's Downfall: Pakistan's Success Story In Counter-Terrorism – OpEd

Afghanistan-based extremists spark terror fears in Central Asia
https://asia.nikkei.com/Politics/Terrorism/Afghanistan-based-extremists-spark-terror-fears-in-Central-Asia

9 Return to Table of Contents
CRIME AND CONFLICT

The Persistence of Sexual Violence in Conflict: Ending the Zero-Sum Approach
Sara E. Davies and Jacqui True – Australian Institute of International Affairs: 19 June 2023

June 19 was the International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict. Sexual violence is one of the most silenced and least-condemned forms of brutality.


For more on this theme:

Statement from President Joe Biden on New Steps Against Perpetrators of Sexual Violence in Conflict

Af-Pak: Terrorism, Organized Crime, And Competitive Violent Jihad – Analysis

The Imperative of Eliminating Sexual Violence in Conflict

Ukraine’s response to sexual violence in conflict signals a historic shift

Sudan Conflict — A Regional Powder Keg

“A fight against oblivion”: How Colombia empowers communities to combat conflict-related sexual violence

The Exploitation of Ukrainians: Additional Consequences of an Armed Conflict

US sanctions South Sudanese officials over conflict-related rapes of hundreds of women and girls
https://www.arabnews.com/node/2325056/world

U.S.-ICC Symposium – U.S. Cooperation with the ICC to Investigate and Prosecute Atrocities in Ukraine: Possibilities and Challenges

International court prosecutor to probe crimes in eastern Congo following government request
https://apnews.com/article/congo-international-court-kivu-crimes-investigation-6673748b86be77c46ba18dea3f14a9664e
CRIME AND CONFLICT

For more on this theme:

Sudan: Civilians at grave risk amid escalating violence in West Darfur

The Wagner, War Crimes and Warlord: The case of the Central African Republic

Environmental Destruction in War: A Human Rights Approach

In the Sudan War, don't forget the indicted war criminals
https://thehill.com/opinion/international/4049983-in-the-sudan-war-dont-forget-the-indicted-war-criminals/

Trafficking in the Sahel: Smugglers ‘will take you anywhere’

War Crimes Arrest Sparks Protest by Kosovo Serbs

Tigrayans Continue To Be Targeted In Ethiopia Despite The Ceasefire

Sexual Violence in Liberia: End the Silent Epidemic

RUSSIA/UKRAINE

As Ukraine’s Counteroffensive Gets Under Way, Putin’s Calm is Just a Front
Tatiana Stanovaya – Carnegie: 22 June 2023
While saying little, Russian President Vladimir Putin has revealed that military failures are at odds with his vision for the future, and escalation — including strikes on a third country — is something he can envisage.
https://carnegieendowment.org/politika/90026

For more on this theme:

The Dynamics of the Ukrainian IT Army’s Campaign in Russia
https://www.lawfareblog.com/dynamics-ukrainian-it-army-s-campaign-russia

Kremlin’s misplaced economic optimism

Could Russia deliver on the threat to cut the US and Europe off from the internet?
RUSSIA/UKRAINE

For more on this theme:

Russia's invasion of Ukraine: Why and why now?

Ukraine's Counteroffensive Two Weeks In

Contracts Between the Wagner Group and Russia's Defense Ministry:
International Law Implications
https://lieber.westpoint.edu/contracts-wagner-group-russias-defense-ministry-international-law-implications/

Ukraine war: offensive use of satellite tech a sign of how conflict is increasingly moving into space

Ukraine war: what international law says about the Russians fighting against their own country

Africa's Ukraine-Russia peace mission: What was achieved?

Russia declines UN request for aid access to areas flooded by Ukraine dam breach

Russia had means, motive and opportunity to destroy Ukraine dam, drone photos and information show
https://apnews.com/article/ukraine-russia-war-kakhovka-dam-collapse-investigation-f5b76fe1ddbf98aa5ff7e4df3199c38

European Union countries agree on a new package of sanctions against Russia over the war in Ukraine
https://apnews.com/article/european-union-sanctions-against-russia-ukraine-war-8df4e2ce3eef80626c6a84bb86b3150

The Concept of Russian Victory Against a Background of Failure
https://jamestown.org/program/the-concept-of-russian-victory-against-a-background-of-failure/

Dirty Business: The Russian-Iranian Strategic Partnership Intensifies
https://jamestown.org/program/dirty-business-the-russian-iranian-strategic-partnership-intensifies/

Russia Stays on the Course of Economic Delusion and Military Attrition

Kakhovka Dam Destruction: Russia's Ecocide and Economic War Against Ukraine (Part One)
RUSSIA/UKRAINE

For more on this theme:

Ukraine war: Russia’s threat to station nuclear warheads in Belarus – what you need to know

Future of the Russia-Ukraine War
https://moderndiplomacy.eu/2023/06/19/future-of-the-russia-ukraine-war/

Pro-Russian hackers remain active amid Ukraine counteroffensive
https://cyberscoop.com/russia-ukraine-hackers-counteroffensive/

As Ukraine takes the fight to Russians, signs of unease in Moscow over war’s progress

The Week In Russia: Putin’s ‘Addictive Crusade’
https://www.rferl.org/a/week-russia-gutterman-putin-addictive-crusade/32462185.html

Ukraine’s Counteroffensive Pushing in Four Sectors: ISW

Vladimir Putin’s plan to win quickly in Ukraine failed. Russia is now implementing an even more brutal strategy

The Russian Way of War in Ukraine: A Military Approach Nine Decades in the Making

Russian War Report: Anti-Ukrainian counteroffensive narratives fail to go viral

Russian War Report: Wagner attempts to draft gamers as drone pilots

Ukraine’s counteroffensive is a marathon not a blitzkrieg
https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/ukrainealert/ukraines-counteroffensive-is-a-marathon-not-a-blitzkrieg/

Putin’s nuclear threats will escalate as Ukraine’s counteroffensive unfolds

Ukraine’s Reconstruction — No Return to the Bad Old Days
https://cepa.org/article/ukraines-reconstruction-no-return-to-the-bad-old-days/
RUSSIA/UKRAINE

For more on this theme:

Grey Zones are Green Lights — Bring Ukraine Into NATO
https://cepa.org/article/grey-zones-are-green-lights-bring-ukraine-into-nato/

Russian Victim-Blaming Unmasked
https://cepa.org/article/russian-victim-blaming-unmasked/

Ukraine’s counteroffensive has been brutal and slow. But Kyiv has many cards left to play