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COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

South African leader gets final chapter of corruption report
South African President Cyril Ramaphosa has received the final chapter of a report on an extensive judicial investigation into corruption.
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Mexico, Brazil fall behind in anti-corruption efforts, ranking shows
Brendan O’Boyle – Reuters: 22 June 2022
Brazil and Mexico registered significant declines in anti-corruption efforts because the pandemic and inflation pushed the prevention of graft lower on public agendas in Latin America.

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African countries need anti-corruption strategies ‘by Africans, for Africans’
https://fcpablog.com/2022/06/06/african-countries-need-anti-corruption-strategies-by-africans-for-africans/
Kazakhstan: corruption is a serious concern, more transparency and independence needed
Corruption probe into Lebanon cbank governor moves to next stage
Uzbekistan: Mayor’s embezzlement case tests water on corruption
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Poll: Bulgaria’s government failing on corruption, inflation, foreign policy
Brazil’s ex-education minister arrested on corruption charges
DRUG TRAFFICKING

Miners, drug traffickers and loggers: Is Costa Rica’s Corcovado National Park on the verge of collapse?
Maxwell Radwin – Mongabay: 20 June 2022
Extreme polarization about what’s going on in Costa Rica’s Corcovado National Park — one of the country’s most treasured protected areas — has led to accusations of corruption and negligence. The park suffers from artisanal gold mining, hunting, logging and drug trafficking.

Police losing narco war in deadly Amazon region where duo disappeared
Tom Phillips and Dan Collyns – The Guardian: 16 June 2022
A key police outpost lies in ruins after a daring raid — a sign of the growing danger on an increasingly lucrative smuggling route.
https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/jun/16/amazon-brazil-peru-narcos-drug-cartels-police

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Why Mexico’s Kingpin Strategy Failed: Targeting Leaders Led to More Criminal Groups and More Violence
Italy’s ‘Ndrangheta and Colombia’s Urabeños Continue Profitable Partnership
Powerful New Chemical Used to Cut Cocaine and Crack Found in São Paulo
Sinaloa State Dominates Fentanyl and Meth Production in Mexico
Paraguay May Be Shifting from Producing LSD and MDMA to Consuming Them
Vicious cycle of Pakistan’s insecurity, Afghanistan’s opium trade converges to narco-terror
Monkey shot dead as Mexican cartels’ passion for exotic pets leaves bloody toll
https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/jun/17/mexican-drug-cartels-exotic-pets-animals-monkey-killed
Ireland to deploy drones to battle sea-based drug smuggling
Secretary-General Says Drug Users Need Science-Based Treatment, Not Punishment, in Message for International Day against Drug Abuse, Illicit Trafficking
TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

Smuggling of Exotic and Endangered Species From Myanmar Increasing
Rajeev Bhattacharyya – The Diplomat: 22 June 2022

Established routes used for trafficking drugs and gold from Myanmar into India are used to transport wildlife, Indian government officials say.

Interpol Fights Against Illegal Logging in Latin America
Julieta Pelcastre – Diálogo: 17 June 2022

Security forces of Latin America and the Caribbean recovered more than 80 shipments of illegal timber through international cooperation as part of Operation Arcadia, Interpol said.

For more on this theme:
State Resilience: Little Political Will for Protecting Peru’s Amazon
https://insightcrime.org/investigations/state-resilience-little-political-will-for-protecting-peru-amazon/

[Explainer] Why is India a major hub for wildlife trafficking?
https://india.mongabay.com/2022/06/explainer-why-is-india-a-major-hub-for-wildlife-trafficking/

Chimp genetic mapping could close off African trafficking routes
https://www.thenationalnews.com/uae/2022/06/06/chimp-genetic-mapping-could-close-off-african-trafficking-routes/

Unaccounted deaths lay bare the dark side of sand mining

In Nigeria’s disappearing forests, loggers outnumber trees

How Well is the Global Treaty to Ban Illegal Fishing Vessels Working?

On World Oceans Day, Global Fishing Watch Unmasks Global “Dark Fleet”

The Great Fish Robbery – OpEd

China Expected to Mount Strong Defense Against US-Backed Maritime Surveillance
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Viet Nam’s Traditional Medicine sector commits to reducing the use of illegal wildlife products
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INTERNET GOVERNANCE

How Will the Proposed Amendments to the IT Rules Affect Free Speech and Intermediaries?  
Aarathi Ganesan – Medianama: 22 June 2022

The Indian Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology’s IT Rules can have a chilling effect on free speech online and risk the balkanization of the internet, experts say.
https://www.medianama.com/2022/06/223-it-rules-amendments-india-free-speech-big-tech/

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INTERNET FREEDOM

Now China wants to censor online comments
Zeyi Yang – MIT Technology Review: 18 June 2022

A draft update of rules would dramatically increase the power of China’s censorship machine, but platforms will pay the price.
https://www.technologyreview.com/2022/06/18/1054452/china-censors-social-media-comments/

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(China) The Download: Trolling text scammers, and China’s social media censorship

(Turkey) Turkish Journalists Urge Govt to Drop Disinformation Law
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https://arstechnica.com/tech-policy/2022/06/russia-is-taking-over-ukraines-internet/?comments=1

(Russia) Russia: War censorship laws continue to suffocate independent media
https://ipi.media/russia-war-censorship-laws-continue-to-suffocate-independent-media/

(GLOBAL) How democracies deflate empty lies
CYBER STATECRAFT AND STRATEGY

**UK government opts against regulation for cyber security standards**

*Daniel Todd – ITPro: 22 June 2022*

U.K. Cyber Security Council will move ahead with its planned chartered standards; the government will monitor its adoption.


*For more on this theme:*

(Europe) #InfosecurityEurope2022 Cooperation Necessary to Strengthen Cyber Strategies


(India) Cyber-secure India key for development: Amit Shah


(Global) More cyber warfare with Russia lies on the horizon

https://interestingengineering.com/cyber-warfare-war-russia

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**CYBER ATTACKS, THREATS AND VULNERABILITIES**

**Russian cyber spies attack Ukraine’s allies, Microsoft says**

*Zeba Siddiqui – Reuters: 22 June 2022*

Russian government hackers have conducted multiple cyberspy operations on countries allied with Ukraine since Moscow’s invasion of that country, a Microsoft report said.


*For more on this theme:*

(Israel, Iran) Was Iran behind siren cyberattacks in Jerusalem, Eilat?

https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/article-709867

(U.K.) Yodel Cyber Incident Disrupts UK Deliveries


(Japan) Nichirin faces cyber attack forcing to shut down production


(Italy) IOTW: BlackCat ransomware strikes Italian university

CYBERCRIME

Justice Pursues Collaboration to Fight Cyber Crime with EU Member States
Mariam Baksh – Nextgov: 16 June 2022

Under an executive order on the responsible development of digital assets, the department recommended the U.S. deepen its investment in international organizations to counter illicit activity.


For more on this theme:

(Global) Ransomware attacks: This is the data that cyber criminals really want to steal
https://www.zdnet.com/article/ransomware-attacks-this-is-the-data-that-cyber-criminals-really-want-to-steal/

(Nigeria) Evolve Strategies to Tackle Cyber Crimes, Buhari Tells Police

(India) Visakhapatnam: Cybercrime has become a national security issue, says Commissioner of Police

CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION

Energy Department Releases Strategy to Build Cyber-Resilient Energy Systems
Frank Konkel – Nextgov: 17 June 2022

The U.S. Department of Energy released its national Cyber-Informed Engineering Strategy that provides guidance for building systems that can withstand cyberattacks.


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(Russia, U.S.) CISA Warns of Russia-Sponsored Threats to Critical Infrastructure

(U.S.) GAO: Potential Federal Cyber Insurance Program Should Avoid Moral Hazard
ISIS AND FOREIGN FIGHTERS

Islamic State’s Threat to Foreign Commercial Activity in Afghanistan
Lucas Webber – The Jamestown Foundation: 16 June 2022

In an attempt to ameliorate Afghanistan’s problems and stimulate the economy, the Taliban is aggressively lobbying for foreign investment. The Taliban, though, is the primary foe of the Islamic State in Khorasan Province, which seeks to disrupt and derail anything that would strengthen the Taliban’s position.

https://jamestown.org/program/islamic-states-threat-to-foreign-commercial-activity-in-afghanistan/

IS expand reach, gain ground in the Sahel as massacres accumulate
The New Arab: 18 June 2022

Islamic State group-linked jihadists, whose power was once thought to be waning in Africa’s Sahel region, have expanded their reach — marking their presence with an unprecedented series of civilian massacres.

https://english.alaraby.co.uk/news/gains-ground-sahel-massacres-accumulate

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Islamic State Audacity of Hope/ Facebook’s Islamic State Problem
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Tajik Islamic State network fundraises in Russia

IntelBrief: Nigeria Attack Raises Questions about Expansion of Terrorist Threat

IntelBrief: Turkey has Long Been an Important Support Base for Islamic State

Islamic State’s video on Nupur Sharma, Taliban threatens attack on Hindus

Indonesia: Police Arrest Alleged Propagandist Amid Crackdown On Pro-Caliphate Group

Taliban Claim Killing 8 ISIS-K Militants in Northeastern Afghanistan

Syrians returning from Al-Hol camp stigmatised over IS ties
TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

Russia Seeks to Quash the North Caucasus Terrorist Threat
Alisa Shishkina – Center for European Policy Analysis: 22 June 2022
The region remains a source of terrorist instability, which is directly linked to Russia’s actions in the Muslim world.
https://cepa.org/russia-seeks-to-quash-the-north-caucasus-terrorist-threat/

Pakistan’s Negotiations With Terrorists
Kunwar Khuldune Shahid – The Diplomat: 22 June 2022
Pakistan’s government is talking with the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan, sparking fears about what the state is prepared to give up in negotiations.
https://thediplomat.com/2022/06/pakistans-negotiations-with-terrorists/

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Escalating Violence Is Putting Nigeria’s Future on the Line
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Lebanon’s Hezbollah can stop Israeli gas extraction from disputed field, chief says

Terrorist Groups ‘Exploiting Power Vacuums’, UN Chief Warns
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‘Kata’ib Hezbollah behind drone attack on Erbil’: KRSC

Afghanistan’s resistance alliance aims to pry Taliban’s grip loose

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Hezbollah members get life terms for Lebanese leader’s death

Burkina Faso to create military zones to fight jihadi rebels
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Russian Occupiers Committing Massive Crimes Against Ukrainian Children – OpEd
Paul Goble – Eurasia Review: 20 June 2022

In Vladimir Putin’s war in Ukraine, children are victims of conscious Russian policies intended to deprive that nation of a future.


No freedom for victims of sexual violence in conflict
Tobore Ovuorie – Deutsch Welle: 16 June 2022

Sexual violence is present wherever conflict erupts, according to the U.N. Adolescent girls are particularly at risk. Survivors trudge on amid a shocking increase in sex crimes committed as weapons of war.


For more on this theme:

Why volunteer grave diggers in Ukraine are exhuming Russia’s dead

Europe Court Tells Russia To Prevent Execution In Eastern Ukraine

Response to Conflict-related Sexual Violence in Ukraine: Accountability and Reparations

Five things to know about sexual violence in conflict zones

Supporting Survivors, Ending Victim-Blaming Crucial to Eradicating Conflict-Based Sexual Violence, Secretary-General Says in International Day Message

Sexual violence in conflict: Overlooked, under-reported and in danger of being “normalized”

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**Starving civilians is an ancient military tactic, but today it's a war crime in Ukraine, Yemen, Tigray and elsewhere**


**Putin’s Hate Crime Against Ukrainians**

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**Russia-Ukraine conflict: ICC prosecutor hopes war crimes probe in Ukraine proves no one can escape justice**


**Warning Incitement of Racial, Religious Hatred Can Trigger Atrocity Crimes, Special Adviser Stresses States’ Legal Obligation to Prevent Genocide**


**International leaders visit Ukraine, decry ‘war crimes’**


**Violence, rhetoric, hate speech, drive atrocity crimes in Ukraine and beyond, Security Council hears**


**Mali: New eye-witness testimony describes killings and mass displacement amid surge in violence in Menaka**


**International Criminal Court prosecutor on the pursuit of justice for Russian war crimes**

https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/international-criminal-courts-top-prosecutor-discusses-justice-for-russian-war-crimes

**UN investigators in war crimes probe says no contact with Russia yet**


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Analysis: What does Ukraine joining the EU really mean?
Beatrice Zemelyte – Al Jazeera: 17 June 2022
European Commission green-lit Ukraine for EU candidate status but becoming a member might take years because of the war with Russia.

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How Ukraine Will Win: Kyiv’s Theory of Victory
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Why Kaliningrad, Russia’s toehold in Europe, could be the next flashpoint in its war against Ukraine

Low morale takes hold of Ukrainian, Russian troops
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Putin Gets Unexpected Pushback From Ally Over War in Ukraine

Two months on, Russia is still struggling to capture this small Ukrainian city

Russian assault on Ukraine ‘transforming’ global energy trade, analysis finds

Ukraine War: Russia Expert Warns of Putin Pressuring Belarus to Add Troops

Putin’s archaic war: Russia’s newly outlawed professional class – and how it could one day return
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Putin's Irony of Fate

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What the invasion of Ukraine has revealed about the nature of modern warfare

Croatia's remarkable national journey is a source of hope for Ukraine

China oil imports from Russia surge amid Ukraine war sanctions

Russia Appears to Begin 'Purge' of Battlefield Commanders in Ukraine

Russia's War in Ukraine and Kaliningrad's Final Farewell to the Gains of the Past

Ukraine, Russia still ‘far from’ peace negotiations, says Scholz

NATO Must Bring Finland, Sweden and Turkey Together

Russia Has a Plan for Ukraine. It Looks Like Chechnya.

A question of balance: India and Europe after Russia's invasion of Ukraine
RUSSIA/UKRAINE

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Russian Parents Demand Their Sons Not Be Sent to Fight in Ukraine

Russia, Ukraine, and the Orthodox church: Where religion meets geopolitics and war

Moscow Threatens to Retaliate for Lithuania’s ‘Blockade of Kaliningrad’
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How Russia’s propaganda machine has adapted to a long war in Ukraine, explained by data

Russia’s Electronic Warfare Capabilities Have Had Mixed Results Against Ukraine
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Russia Has Already ‘Strategically Lost’ Ukraine War: UK Defense Chief
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Will the war with Russia rein in Ukraine’s oligarchs?

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Plan needed to make Russia pay reparations to Ukrainians, says report

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Prolonged war may make Russia more cyber aggressive, US official says
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Mixed results for Russia’s aggressive Ukraine information war, experts say
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How anti-tank weapons shaped the early phase of the Ukraine war

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How Ukraine gave Putin a bloody nose – and rewrote the future of air power

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Russia Tightens Gas Grip as It Rejects Extra Ukraine Transit

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