## THE MARSHALL CENTER

# transnational Weekly



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# COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

#### CORRUPTION

#### Sri Lanka parliament passes anti-corruption bill without vote

Uditha Jayasinghe – Reuters: 19 July 2023

The bill is aimed at improving governance in the crisis-hit country and meeting requirements linked to a \$2.9 billion bailout from the International Monetary Fund.

https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/sri-lanka-parliament-passes-anti-corruption-bill-without-vote-speaker-2023-07-19/

#### Ukraine's Other Front: The War on Corruption

Tamar Jacoby - Washington Monthly: 17 July 2023

The besieged nation has a deep-seated culture of graft that must end if it is to rebuild successfully. There are hopeful signs from Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest city and once one of its most corrupt.

https://washingtonmonthly.com/2023/07/17/ukraines-other-front-the-war-on-corruption/

#### For more on this theme:

# Rare Singapore corruption probe widens to include Grand Prix owner

https://www.cnn.com/2023/07/14/business/singapore-ong-corruption-probe-intl-hnk/index.html

# Pakistan: Federal Investigation Agency arrests Customs officers in mega corruption scandal

https://www.aninews.in/news/world/asia/pakistan-federal-investigation-agency-arrests-customs-officers-in-mega-corruption-scandal 2023 0714232918/

#### Mandela Day Blues as South Africans Worry About Ongoing Corruption

https://www.voanews.com/a/mandela-day-blues-as-south-africans-worry-about-ongoing-corruption/7187717.

#### How South Africa's government hopes to tackle its construction corruption problem

https://www.international-construction.com/news/how-south-africa-s-government-hopes-to-tackle-its-construction-corruption-problem/8029865.article

# (Transnational) Organized crime and corruption in conflict settings: Interview with Ms Ghada Waly

https://international-review.icrc.org/articles/transnational-organized-crime-interview-with-ms-ghada-waly-923

# President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud's Bold Move To Combat Corruption In Somalia - OpEd

https://www.eurasiareview.com/28062023-president-hassan-sheikh-mohamuds-bold-move-to-combat-corruption-in-somalia-oped/

#### Major Corruption Scandal in Nepal Exposes Deep-Rooted Kleptocracy

https://southasianvoices.org/major-corruption-scandal-in-nepal-exposes-deep-rooted-kleptocracy/

# The Luxury French Real Estate of Alleged Latin American Money Launderers and Officials Accused of Corruption

https://www.occrp.org/en/investigations/the-luxury-french-real-estate-of-alleged-latin-american-money-launderers-and-officials-accused-of-corruption

#### DRUG TRAFFICKING

# Drug trafficking fuels other deforestation drivers in the Amazon: report

Maxwell Radwin - Mongabay: 14 July 2023

The illegal activity is intimately connected to cattle ranching, illegal mining, wildlife trafficking and land grabbing, all of which have major environmental footprints in the region.

https://news.mongabay.com/2023/07/drug-trafficking-fuels-other-deforestation-drivers-in-the-amazon-report/

# Ukraine War May Increase Drug Trafficking on Balkan Route — Report

Fjori Sinoruka – Balkan Insight: 17 July 2023

A report from the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime finds the war may be dislocating traditional routes through that country to the benefit of traffickers in Southeast Europe.

https://balkaninsight.com/2023/07/17/ukraine-war-may-increase-drug-trafficking-on-balkan-route-report/

Full report:

#### **Disruption or displacement?**

https://globalinitiative.net/analysis/ukraine-war-impact-drug-markets-south-eastern-europe/

For more on this theme:

# Venezuelan ex-spy chief, Chávez confidant, extradited to US on drug trafficking charges

https://www.foxnews.com/world/venezuelan-ex-spy-chief-chavez-confidant-extradited-us-drug-trafficking-charges

#### Combating drug trafficking

https://www.thenews.com.pk/tns/detail/1085559-combating-drug-trafficking

#### Al Cyber Patrol to Crack Down on Drug Trafficking Using Social Media

https://japannews.yomiuri.co.jp/society/general-news/20230702-119978/

#### Why Israel needs to focus on Syria's drug trafficking

https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/article-749284

#### From Sicily to Sinaloa: Contrasting the Mafia and Drug Cartels

https://sofrep.com/news/from-sicily-to-sinaloa-contrasting-the-mafia-and-drug-cartels/

#### Guinea Bissau: Mafia, drugs and a former president's son

https://www.dw.com/en/guinea-bissau-mafia-drugs-and-a-former-presidents-son/a-66135658

## **Hezbollah's Narco Empire**

https://video.vice.com/en\_us/video/hezbollahs-narco-empire/645e5ab34fa56d36a45ac413

# Treasury Sanctions Fentanyl Network Run by Sinaloa Cartel Family Members

https://www.hstoday.us/subject-matter-areas/border-security/treasury-sanctions-fentanyl-network-run-by-sinaloa-cartel-family-members/

#### TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

#### **Can Tech Stop Animal Poachers in Their Tracks?**

Deepa Padmanaban – Mother Jones: 15 July 2023

Indian authorities turn to an app to fight wildlife crime.

https://www.motherjones.com/environment/2023/07/india-wildlife-poaching-hawk-app/

# African e-commerce platforms must address thriving illegal wildlife trade, urge international non-profits

Susan Chacko - Down To Earth: 17 July 2023

Illegal trade in wild species undermines natural resources, threatens species with extinction, affects community livelihoods and can increase risks of new zoonotic diseases.

https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/world/african-e-commerce-platforms-must-address-thriving-illegal-wildlife-trade-urge-international-non-profits-90669

#### For more on this theme:

# Forests in the furnace: Can fashion brands tackle illegal logging in their Cambodian supply chains?

https://news.mongabay.com/2023/07/forests-in-the-furnace-can-fashion-brands-tackle-illegal-logging-in-their-cambodian-supply-chains/

## Calculated Risk: Australia's Exposure to Illegal Logging (July 2023)

https://www.ciel.org/reports/calculated-risk-australias-exposure-to-illegal-logging-july-2023/

# In Lula's first six months, Brazil Amazon deforestation dropped 34%, reversing trend under Bolsonaro

https://apnews.com/article/brazil-amazon-deforestation-lula-climate-change-2fe225f71a8f484e8d-365ea641acd65e

# Brazil says illegal miners driven from Indigenous territory, but 'war' not over

https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/jul/10/brazil-yanomami-territory-illegal-miners-driven-out

#### Brazil Launches Investigation into R\$80 Million in Illegal Gold

https://www.occrp.org/en/daily/17831-brazil-launches-investigation-into-r-80-million-in-illegal-gold

#### EU tightens the net on illegal fishing with restructuring of fisheries control rules

https://www.seafoodsource.com/news/premium/environment-sustainability/eu-tightens-the-net-on-illegal-fishing-with-restructuring-of-fisheries-control-rules

#### In Venezuela, Contraband Networks Supply Rampant Wildcat Mining

https://insightcrime.org/news/in-venezuela-contraband-networks-supply-rampant-wildcat-mining/

#### In Peru, an Amazonian community fights illegal logging and state neglect

https://www.rappler.com/world/latin-america/santa-rosillo-amazonian-community-fighting-illegal-log-ging-state-neglect-peru/

# PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

#### INTERNET GOVERNANCE

Regulating artificial intelligence: How the EU just got us closer

Melinda Rankin - The Interpreter: 18 July 2023

In these times of high-tech angst, a draft act passed in the European Parliament sets the scene for the future of artificial intelligence.

https://www.lowyinstitute.org/the-interpreter/regulating-artificial-intelligence-how-eu-just-got-us-closer

For more on this theme:

(Global) How privacy legislation can help address Al

https://www.brookings.edu/articles/how-privacy-legislation-can-help-address-ai/

(U.S., Europe) On AI and Tech, the US Must Avoid Europe's Mistakes

https://cepa.org/article/on-ai-and-tech-the-us-must-avoid-europes-mistakes/

(Global) Déjà Vu: Is the UN Attempting to Take Over the Internet (Again)?

https://cepa.org/article/deja-vu-is-the-un-attempting-to-take-over-the-internet/

(Global) Towards Digital Platforms and Public Purpose: Final Report of the Democracy and Internet Governance Initiative

https://shorensteincenter.org/towards-digital-platforms-and-public-purpose/

#### INTERNET FREEDOM

# India's Frequent Internet Shutdowns Discussed at G20 Meeting

The Wire: 17 July 2023

Responding to a query on the frequent bans, former Intelligence Bureau chief and member of National Human Rights Commission Rajiv Jain reportedly stated that the right to life is sometimes in conflict with the right to freedom of expression and right to privacy.

https://thewire.in/government/indias-frequent-internet-shutdowns-discussed-at-g20-meeting

For more on this theme:

(China) China launches another internet crackdown targeting online rumours

https://www.scmp.com/news/china/politics/article/3227889/china-launches-another-internet-crack-down-targeting-online-rumours

(Nigeria) Government's Role in Enhancing Internet Freedom in Nigeria

https://techeconomy.ng/governments-role-in-enhancing-internet-freedom-in-nigeria/

(Ethiopia) Social Media Access In Ethiopia Back After 5-month Shutdown

https://www.barrons.com/news/social-media-access-in-ethiopia-back-after-5-month-shutdown-9eca8b66

#### CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING

Study: Africa Cybersecurity Improves but Lacks Cross-Border Frameworks

Dan Raywood - Dark Reading: 19 July 2023

While preparedness in Africa is on the upswing, the continent still lacks agreements on international security standards and sharing threat intelligence.

https://www.darkreading.com/dr-global/study-africa-cybersecurity-improves-but-lacks-cross-border-frameworks

For more on this theme:

(Indonesia) How Indonesia's national data centres promise to overcome digital governance barriers

https://govinsider.asia/intl-en/article/how-indonesias-national-data-centres-promise-to-overcome-digital-governance-barriers

(U.S.) Millions could lose internet access next year — we can't let that happen

https://the hill.com/opinion/technology/4101292-millions-could-lose-internet-access-next-year-we-cant-let-that-happen/

(UAE) The laws behind Dubai's digital transformation: A look at the pioneering legislations fuelling the city's goal to be the world's digital economy capital

https://wam.ae/en/details/1395303177676

#### **CYBERATTACKS**

#### Norwegian Refugee Council hit by cyberattack

Daryna Antoniuk - The Record: 13 July 2023

The Norwegian Refugee Council said the attack targeted an online database that stores the personal information of project participants.

https://therecord.media/norwegian-refugee-council-hit-by-cyberattack

For more on this theme:

(Global) Google restricting internet access to some employees to reduce cyberattack risk

https://www.cnbc.com/2023/07/18/google-restricting-internet-access-to-some-employees-for-security.html

(Russia, New Zealand) Parliament hit by cyber attack, Russian hacker group claims responsibility

https://www.newshub.co.nz/home/politics/2023/07/parliament-hit-by-cyber-attack-russian-hacker-group-claims-responsibility.html

(Australia) Australia's Fortescue Hit by Cyber Attack That Disclosed Some Network Data

https://www.insurancejournal.com/news/international/2023/07/19/731215.htm#

#### CYBERCRIME

#### NCA: Nation States Using Cybercrime Groups as Proxies

Phil Muncaster - InfoSecurity: 19 July 2023

The new chief of the United Kingdom's National Crime Agency has warned that hostile states are increasingly teaming up with organized crime.

https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/news/nca-nation-states-cybercrime/

#### For more on this theme:

# (Hong Kong) Hong Kong to set up new subdivision of prosecutors to handle cybercrimes, says deputy justice minister

https://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/law-and-crime/article/3227087/hong-kong-set-new-subdivision-prosecutors-handle-cybercrimes-says-deputy-justice-minister

#### (Jordan) Controversy over cybercrimes bill before Jordan parliament

https://www.arabnews.com/node/2338982/middle-east

# (South Africa) SA on the brink of being Africa's capital of cybercrime, say digital experts

https://www.news24.com/citypress/news/sa-on-the-brink-of-being-africas-capital-of-cybercrime-say-digital-experts-20230717

#### CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION

# China poses 'alarming' threat to US power grid, lawmakers told

Bloomberg: 19 July 2023

Lawmakers were told that a Chinese attack could plunge military and other sensitive sites into darkness.

https://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/china-poses-alarming-threat-to-us-power-grid-cyberattack-could-lawmakers-told-101689761961079.html

#### For more on this theme:

# (Japan) Critical infrastructure cyberattack on Japan's biggest port

https://techwireasia.com/2023/07/critical-infrastructure-cyberattack-on-japans-biggest-port/

#### (Global) Lithuania's cyber chief unimpressed: attacks against NATO were PR stunts

https://cybernews.com/security/nato-resilient-cyberattack-vilnius/

#### (Canada) The cyber threat against Canada

https://incyber.org/en/the-cyber-threat-against-canada/

# PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

## ISIS AND FOREIGN FIGHTERS

#### Why ISIS Cannot Bring the Caliphate Back to Life

Mohammed Hassan - Carnegie: 18 July 2023

Since the defeat of Islamic State group forces at Al-Baghouz in 2019, five factors have stymied the group's revival in Syria and Iraq.

https://carnegieendowment.org/sada/90221

#### Media Jihad Campaign: The Islamic State's Response to Deplatforming

Danielle Haberfeld and Eitan Azani - International Institute for Counter-Terrorism: 15 July 2023

The recent campaign by the Islamic State group and its online supporters focuses on the concept of "media jihad" and its significance in response to deplatforming efforts.

https://ict.org.il/media-jihad-campaign-islamic-state-repsonse-to-deplatforming/

For more on this theme:

# Islamic State and Al-Qaeda actively plotting terror attacks in the UK; govt warning expected soon

https://www.wionews.com/world/islamic-state-and-al-qaeda-actively-plotting-terror-attacks-in-the-uk-government-to-announce-616560

#### Fighting to free the women and children enslaved by IS

https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-66108078

#### The Netherlands takes steps to prosecute crimes against Yazidis

https://www.aljazeera.com/features/2023/7/12/the-netherlands-takes-steps-to-prosecute-crimes-against-yazidis

#### Revealed: How ISIS planned to unleash terror in India

https://www.indiatoday.in/programme/video/revealed-how-isis-planned-to-unleash-terror-in-india-2403507-2023-07-07

#### Islamic State funds terror along DRC-Uganda border

https://www.defenceweb.co.za/joint/diplomacy-a-peace/islamic-state-funds-terror-along-drc-uganda-border/

#### Mali Frees IS-Linked Jihadists in Prisoner Swap: Sources

https://www.thedefensepost.com/2023/07/09/mali-frees-jihadists/

# **Brief: ISGS Returns to Burkina Faso in Force**

https://jamestown.org/program/brief-isgs-returns-to-burkina-faso-in-force/

# ISCAP in Mozambique Forecast: Fear, Investment, and Technology

https://greydynamics.com/iscap-in-mozambique-forecast-fear-investment-and-technology/

# TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

# What the Taliban's Defensive Public Messaging Reveals

Andrew Watkins - United States Institute of Peace: 13 July 2023

Recent statements show how closely the group follows global media coverage and how concerned they are by narratives that could undermine their own.

https://www.usip.org/publications/2023/07/what-talibans-defensive-public-messaging-reveals

#### For more on this theme:

## Terror groups in Africa, a breeding ground for attacks in the West

https://northafricapost.com/69335-terror-groups-in-africa-a-breeding-ground-for-attacks-in-the-west.

# Questions Surround Pakistani Taliban's Inroads into Balochistan: Organizational **Expansion or Propaganda Stunt?**

https://jamestown.org/program/questions-surround-pakistani-talibans-inroads-into-balochistan-organizational-expansion-or-propaganda-stunt/

#### Somalia Counterterrorism: Anticipated Trends and Strategies

https://greydynamics.com/somalia-counterterrorism-anticipated-trends-and-strategies/

#### What Goes On In The Mind Of A Terrorist Woman?

https://humanglemedia.com/what-goes-on-in-the-mind-of-a-terrorist-woman/

# Report exposes extravagant lifestyle of Hezbollah financier's family

https://www.arabnews.com/node/2333861/middle-east

#### Thanks to the Taliban, Afghanistan is once again a hotbed of terrorism

https://thehill.com/opinion/national-security/4081833-thanks-to-the-taliban-afghanistan-is-once-again-a-hotbed-of-terrorism/

#### Experts: Taliban treatment of women may be "gender apartheid"

https://www.ohchr.org/en/stories/2023/07/experts-taliban-treatment-women-may-be-gender-apartheid

#### Africa's Battle Against Terrorism

https://www.telesurenglish.net/news/Africas-Battle-Against-Terrorism-20230710-0022.html

## Countering terrorism in today's world

https://www.orfonline.org/expert-speak/countering-terrorism-in-todays-world/

# Assessing Person-Centered Outcomes in Women and Children Returning from Violent **Extremist Conflict**

https://www.usip.org/publications/2023/07/assessing-person-centered-outcomes-women-and-children-returning-violent

#### The world urgently needs to broaden its approach to counter-extremism

https://www.thenationalnews.com/opinion/comment/2023/07/13/the-world-urgently-needs-to-broadenits-approach-to-counter-extremism/

#### RUSSIA/UKRAINE

#### **Ukraine Has Not Transformed EU Foreign Policy**

Judy Dempsey - Carnegie: 20 July 2023

The bloc has not changed enough in response to Russia's war. To be effective, it needs a strategic foreign and security policy.

https://carnegieeurope.eu/strategiceurope/90234

For more on this theme:

#### Ukraine's Delicate Balancing Act With China

https://carnegieendowment.org/2023/07/20/ukraine-s-delicate-balancing-act-with-china-pub-90237

## The Vilnius Summit: A Turning Point for NATO and Ukraine

https://carnegieendowment.org/politika/90236

#### What We Learned From Recent Calls for a Russian Nuclear Attack

https://carnegieendowment.org/politika/90232

## Russia Expands Its War on Ukraine — to Global Food Supplies

https://www.usip.org/publications/2023/07/russia-expands-its-war-ukraine-global-food-supplies

#### One Vital Change Can Advance Long-Term Peace in Ukraine

https://www.usip.org/publications/2023/07/one-vital-change-can-advance-long-term-peace-ukraine

# Ukraine's sea drone attack on Crimea bridge signals shift in strategy

https://www.msn.com/en-ie/news/world/ukraine-s-sea-drone-attack-on-crimea-bridge-signals-shift-instrategy/ar-AA1dZaye

#### IntelBrief: The Impact of the Ukraine War on Türkiye's Relations with Russia

https://thesoufancenter.org/intelbrief-2023-july-21/

#### Russia suspends Ukraine grain deal. Here's what it means for the rest of the world

https://www.npr.org/2023/07/17/1188048725/ukraine-russia-grain-deal-putin

# Ukraine war: Russia strikes Ukraine grain after ending sea deal

https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-66242446

# China 'complicit' in Russia's invasion of Ukraine, MI6 chief tells Politico

https://www.politico.eu/article/china-complicit-russia-invasion-ukraine-mi6-richard-moore/

# Zelenskyy says Russia 'investing everything' to stop Ukraine army

https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/7/15/zelenskyy-says-russia-investing-everything-to-stop-ukraine-

# No sign of Russian intent to change tack on Ukraine war, Blinken says

https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/rivalries-show-southeast-asia-hosts-annual-security-gathering-2023-07-14/

# Crowdsourced Cyber Warfare: Russia and Ukraine Launch Fresh DDoS Offensives

https://cepa.org/article/russia-ukraine-launch-cyber-offensives/

#### RUSSIA/UKRAINE

For more on this theme:

#### Russia Chooses to Starve the World's Poor (Again)

https://cepa.org/article/russia-chooses-to-starve-the-worlds-poor-again/

# Could Ukraine Copy Israel's Military Tech Success?

https://cepa.org/article/could-ukraine-copy-israels-military-tech-success/

# Putin's Popular Support: A Miasma of Jew Hate and Fatalism

https://cepa.org/article/putins-popular-support-a-miasma-of-jew-hate-and-fatalism/

#### 'Price of Blood' Soars as Russia's Draftees Evade Service

https://cepa.org/article/price-of-blood-soars-as-russias-draftees-evade-service/

#### Tehran's Anger Over Moscow's Position on Ormuz Islands Prompts Russia to Back Down

https://jamestown.org/program/tehrans-anger-over-moscows-position-on-ormuz-islands-prompts-russia-toback-down/

#### **Putin's Private Empire**

https://jamestown.org/program/putins-private-empire/

# Russia Reels From New Post-Vilnius Challenges

https://jamestown.org/program/russia-reels-from-new-post-vilnius-challenges/

# Russia's invasion of Ukraine was never about NATO

https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/ukrainealert/russias-invasion-of-ukraine-was-never-about-nato/

#### "Pariah" Putin forced to cancel travel plans over fears of war crimes arrest

https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/ukrainealert/pariah-putin-forced-to-cancel-travel-plans-over-fears-ofwar-crimes-arrest/

#### Putin's biggest mistake was believing Ukrainians were really Russians

https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/ukrainealert/putins-biggest-mistake-was-believing-ukrainians-were-re-

#### After Wagner: Could the Russian army now turn against Putin?

https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/ukrainealert/after-wagner-could-the-russian-army-now-turn-against-pu-

# Prigozhin calls Russia's war on Ukraine 'a disgrace' in another public affront despite Kremlin efforts to silence him

https://www.businessinsider.com/prigozhin-called-russia-war-ukraine-disgrace-another-public-affront-kremlin-2023-7

# EU plans €20B fund to stock Ukraine's military for years

https://www.politico.eu/article/eu-20-billion-fund-stock-ukraine-military-russia-war/

#### China-Russia Trade at Highest Since Start of Ukraine War

https://www.voanews.com/a/china-russia-trade-at-its-highest-since-start-of-ukraine-war-/7178903.html

#### RUSSIA/UKRAINE

For more on this theme:

Ukraine: Russian Missile Strike on Lviv a Possible War Crime

https://www.hrw.org/news/2023/07/19/ukraine-russian-missile-strike-lviv-possible-war-crime

The battle to adapt to Russia's evolving war tactics is essential if Ukraine is to emerge victorious

https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-07-18/russia-ukraine-battle-to-adapt-war-strategy/102609238

How Russia's invasion of Ukraine is reshaping Middle East arms market: Analysis

https://english.alarabiya.net/News/world/2023/07/20/How-Russia-s-invasion-of-Ukraine-is-reshaping-Middle-East-arms-market-Analysis

The Crimean bridge is vital for the Russians. Now, it could stop the war effort

https://www.cnn.com/videos/world/2023/07/17/crimea-bridge-attack-analysis-russia-ukraine-war-cnntm-intlvpx.cnn

Following Prigozhin's Aborted Mutiny, What Will Happen to the Wagner Group?

https://www.fpri.org/article/2023/07/following-prigozhins-aborted-mutiny-what-will-happen-to-the-wagnergroup/

Russia's Turla hackers target Ukraine's defense with spyware

https://therecord.media/turla-hackers-targeting-ukraine-defense

Russia-Ukraine war risks hampering transition to global low-carbon economy

https://www.energymonitor.ai/tech/electrification/russia-ukraine-war-critical-minerals-energy-transition/

The Ukraine War and Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

https://www.indepthnews.net/index.php/armaments/nuclear-weapons/6307-the-ukraine-war-and-non-proliferation-of-nuclear-weapons

Russia's War Machine Is Still Running on Western Equipment

https://www.barrons.com/articles/russia-ukraine-war-exports-sanctions-western-technology-5a3eff69