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COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

Corruption convictions no bar to running in Kenya’s elections
Katharine Houreld – Reuters: 27 July 2022

A member of Parliament fined $7 million for corruption and handed a 67-year jail term; a top civil servant with an asset seizure order against her; lawmakers convicted of bribery, economic crimes and impersonating corruption investigators. All are standing for office in Kenya’s August 9 presidential and parliamentary elections, fueling voter frustration over endemic corruption in a country long regarded as one of East Africa’s most vibrant democracies.


For more on this theme:

Public Officials Visit Remand Prisons to Cultivate Zero Tolerance Policy to Corruption

View from The Hill: The challenge of ‘grey’ corruption and creating a culture of integrity

The (Literal) Stink of Corruption in Costa Brava, Lebanon

Vietnamese coast guards accused of corruption face up to 17 years

Presidential candidates under pressure to act on corruption
https://cyprus-mail.com/2022/07/17/presidential-candidates-under-pressure-to-act-on-corruption/

Colombia’s army chief retires amid corruption scandals and escalation of violence

SA’s corruption watchdog to subpoena Ramaphosa over game farm scandal
https://www.africanews.com/2022/07/20/sas-corruption-watchdog-to-subpoena-ramaphosa-over-game-farm-scandal/

Fuel prices and corruption put Panama on the brink of a social explosion
https://ticotimes.net/2022/07/14/fuel-hike-and-corruption-put-panama-on-the-brink-of-a-social-explosion

Malaysia lagging behind neighbours due to Najib’s corruption: Mahathir

Designation of Former Paraguayan President Horacio Manuel Cartes Jara for Involvement in Significant Corruption
https://www.state.gov/designation-of-former-paraguayan-president-horacio-manuel-cartes-jara-for-involvement-in-significant-corruption/
DRUG TRAFFICKING

Colombian drug trafficking groups propose cease-fire with incoming government
Laura Gamba Fadul – Anadolu Agency: 22 July 2022

Dominant criminal groups in Colombia linked to production and trafficking of cocaine want to hold peace talks.


‘Narco-drones’ are the newest form of drug trafficking. Our laws aren’t yet ready to combat them
Natalie Klein and Rob McLaughlin – The Conversation: 24 July 2022

Remote-controlled “narco-drones,” “narco-subs” or “underwater drones” herald a new era in drug trafficking. Drugs and other illicit goods can now be transported across the oceans, controlled by a remote operator anywhere in the world.


For more on this theme:

Yachts and Cocaine — An Annual Voyage Between Argentina and Spain

The foreign policies of the Sinaloa Cartel and CJNG – Part I: In the Americas

The terrible twos: Narcotics trafficking and terrorism
https://www.thejakartapost.com/opinion/2022/07/26/the-terrible-twos-narcotics-trafficking-and-terrorism-.html

Mexico’s Most Famous Female Narco Just Got a New Gig: TikTok Influencer

Easy targets: Drug mules fill women’s jails in Hong Kong

Drugs smuggling remains high with rise in drug mules

Cartel steps up police attacks as Colombia power transfer nears

Balkan Ports Becoming ‘Growing’ Magnets for Smugglers, Report says

Ecuador Deals Blow to Narcotrafficking, Crime on Colombian Border
TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

Guyana Struggling to Tame Lawless Waters
Denis Chabrol – InSight Crime: 27 July 2022

Guyana’s coast guard commander freely admits that his surveillance and enforcement capabilities extend to just a fraction of the country’s waters.

https://insightcrime.org/investigations/guyana-struggling-to-tame-lawless-waters-iuu/

New DNA test aims to help bust illegal trade in precious red coral
Kristy Hamilton – Mongabay: 21 July 2022

There’s a brisk illegal trade in precious red corals, but law enforcement currently has a difficult time telling commonly traded species apart.


For more on this theme:

Red-hot demand for ipê wood coincides with deforestation hubs in Brazil

260 illegal logging sites discovered in sanctuary

Tree Sleuths
https://harpers.org/archive/2022/08/tree-sleuths-how-dna-is-transforming-the-fight-against-illegal-logging/

The United States takes a stand against illegal fishing

Skylight’s Ted Schmitt: Technology can turn tide of war against IUU

High Hopes for Radar Crash Against Reality of Illegal Fishing in Costa Rica

Smugglers and Illegal Fishers Find a Haven in Suriname
https://insightcrime.org/investigations/smugglers-illegal-fishers-find-haven-suriname-iuu/

Panama Lending Flag to Most Destructive Fishing Ships
https://insightcrime.org/investigations/panama-lending-flag-most-destructive-fishing-ships-iuu/

Overharvesting and Poaching Devastate Jamaica’s Fisheries
https://insightcrime.org/investigations/overharvesting-poaching-devastate-jamaica-fisheries-iuu/

East African Countries Seek Cross-border Cooperation To Combat Wildlife Trafficking
https://www.africa.com/east-african-countries-seek-cross-border-cooperation-to-combat-wildlife-trafficking/
PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

INTERNET GOVERNANCE

China launches new bid for internet dominance
Phelim Kine – Politico: 21 July 2022
Beijing ramped up efforts to radically change global internet rules and standards by morphing the annual China-hosted World Internet Conference into a permanent organization dedicated to what China’s President Xi Jinping described as “global internet development and governance.”

For more on this theme:
(Caribbean) SIDS and youth in focus at regional Internet Governance Forum

(New Zealand) Tech giants to self-regulate in reducing harmful content in New Zealand

INTERNET FREEDOM

The Internet has no place in Khamenei’s vision for Iran’s future
Sayeh Isfahani – Atlantic Council: 25 July 2022
Iranian authorities are rolling out an “update” to its online censorship machine. This censorship behemoth has already cut Iranians’ access to almost all international news sources and social media platforms – with the exception of Instagram – because they are seen as weapons of the enemy by Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

For more on this theme:
(Indonesia) Internet Freedom in Indonesia is Teetering on a Razor’s Edge
https://thediplomat.com/2022/07/internet-freedom-in-indonesia-is-teetering-on-a-razors-edge/

(Uzbekistan) Uzbekistan blacks out internet to quell dissent
https://www.codastory.com/newsletters/uzbekistan-internet-blackout/

(Russia) Russia Is Quietly Ramping Up Its Internet Censorship Machine

(Turkey) Turkish government agency collecting every activity of Internet users – report
When cyber policymakers, diplomats or lawyers brief government leaders, they are routinely asked a simple political question — what actually constitutes an armed attack in cyberspace?

https://lieber.westpoint.edu/diplomatic-considerations-armed-attack/

For more on this theme:

(Global) Infiltrate, Exploit, Manipulate: Why the Subversive Nature of Cyber Conflict Explains Both Its Strategic Promise and Its Limitations

(U.S.) How Should U.S. Cybersecurity Policy Develop?
https://www.cfr.org/blog/how-should-us-cybersecurity-policy-develop

(Global) Could Russia’s war on Ukraine escalate into a global cyberwar?
https://www.cnbc.com/video/2022/07/18/could-russias-war-on-ukraine-escalate-into-a-global-cyberwar.html

(Russia) Assess Russia’s Cyber Performance Without Repeating Its Past Mistakes

Moldova is working to step up cyber defenses to protect its critical infrastructure from rising threats amid the war in neighboring Ukraine.


For more on this theme:

(U.S., Global) Equipping U.S. Partners in Cyberspace is a Must
https://www.thecipherbrief.com/column_article/equipping-u-s-partners-in-cyberspace-is-a-must

(Africa, Global) Meet the four Global Shapers working to provide digital skills for one million Africans

(Global) Want Better Cyber Policy? Talk to Social Scientists
https://mwi.usma.edu/want-better-cyber-policy-talk-to-social-scientists/

(U.S.) Government Should Incentivize Information Sharing for Ransomware Attacks, Experts Say
https://broadbandbreakfast.com/2022/07/government-should-incentivize-information-sharing-for-ransomware-attacks-experts-say/
CYBERCRIME

Chasing Bitcoin: Why North Korea Ransomware Attacks Target U.S. Health Care Providers
Jason Brett – Forbes: 23 July 2022

The United States Department of Justice announced that about $500,000 in bitcoin has been seized from North Korean hackers who were using Maui ransomware to attack health care organizations in the U.S.


For more on this theme:

(EU) The European Union’s efforts to tackle the phenomenon of ransomware attacks (Part II)

(U.S., Global) The biggest cyber-crime threat is also the one that nobody wants to talk about
https://www.zdnet.com/article/the-biggest-cyber-crime-threat-is-also-the-one-that-nobody-wants-to-talk-about/

(Global) Cybercrime goods and services are cheap and plentiful

(Global) Understanding the Evolution of Cybercrime to Predict its Future

CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION

Ransomware Hackers Will Still Target Smaller Critical Infrastructure, CISA Director Warns
Alexandra Kelley – Nextgov: 26 July 2022

The U.S. Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency’s executive director, Brandon Wales, discusses how ransomware actors target companies, and how CISA wants organizations to prevent zero-day events.


For more on this theme:

(Global) The Industrial Cyber-Attack Evolution: How to Keep Your Network Safe

(U.S., Ukraine) United States and Ukraine Expand Cooperation on Cybersecurity

(Israel) Israel’s new cyber-kinetic lab will boost the resilience of critical infrastructure
https://www.helpnetsecurity.com/2022/07/27/cyber-lab-ics-ot/
PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

ISIS AND FOREIGN FIGHTERS

The shadowy economics of ISIS resurgence in Syria
Haid Haid – The Arab Weekly; 26 July 2022

The terrorist group is extorting business owners to finance its operations and regrow its networks. Unless the ISIS ability to fund deadly operations is disrupted, its resurgence is all but assured.
https://thearabweekly.com/shadowy-economics-isis-resurgence-syria

For more on this theme:

Explained: Islamic State-Khorasan and the threat it poses to India and the world

ISIS planned chemical attacks in Europe, new details on weapons program reveal
https://www.stripes.com/theaters/europe/2022-07-12/isis-chemical-attacks-europe-6624830.html

Attacks By The Islamic State Are On The Rise In Afghanistan

Containing a Resilient ISIS in Central and North-eastern Syria

DOD to Fund Better Detention Facilities in Syria, But Best Solution is Detainee Repatriation

What Recent ISIS Attacks in Africa Tells Us About the Terrorist Group's Resurgence

Iraq and US to boost security ties to prevent ISIS comeback

The Islamic State Campaign That Led To Kuje Prison Attack
https://humanglemedia.com/the-islamic-state-campaign-that-led-to-kuje-prison-attack/

Islamic State moves out of the shadows east of the Euphrates, swears in new recruits

Islamic State launches new Tajik propaganda network
https://eurasianet.org/islamic-state-launches-new-tajik-propaganda-network
TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

Al Qaeda and ISIS still want to attack America — what can we expect?
Colin P. Clarke and Tore R. Hamming – The Hill: 25 July 2022

Almost one year after the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan, many of the more dire predictions appear to be coming true — al-Qaida is regrouping and remains intent on becoming the leader of the global jihadist movement. Per a recent United Nations report, key al-Qaida allies have consolidated power in Afghanistan, providing the group with favorable conditions to mount a comeback.


For more on this theme:

The enemy of my enemy: Hamas and the Syrian regime
https://english.alaraby.co.uk/opinion/enemy-my-enemy-hamas-and-syrian-regime

Secret schools enable Afghanistan’s teen girls to skirt Taliban’s education ban

‘They Call Us Infidels’: Former Afghan Soldiers Still Live In Hiding To Avoid Taliban Retribution
https://gandhara.rferl.org/a/afghanistan-taliban-revenge-killings/31942162.html

Europol report: latest situational analysis on terrorism in the EU

India’s Double-Faced Approach to Terrorism
https://thediplomat.com/2022/07/indias-double-faced-approach-to-terrorism/

Terrorist Financing and Technology: Understanding Approaches and Anticipating Risks

ISIS, al-Qaida still threats in conflict areas, UN experts warn

Role of Women in Terrorism in Africa
https://idsa.in/idsacomments/Role-of-Women-150722

Afghanistan: Report highlights multiple human rights violations and abuses under Taliban

Salafi-Jihadi Global Tracker: Salafi-Jihadi Groups Threaten India After Political Controversy
CONFLICT AND CRIME

Ukrainian Refugees Sent to Russia
Voice of America: 24 July 2022

Nearly 2 million Ukrainian refugees have been sent to Russia, both Ukrainian and Russian officials say. Ukraine calls the transportation of its people forced transfers to enemy soil, which is considered a war crime. Russia calls the actions humanitarian evacuations of war victims who already speak Russian and are thankful for a new home.

https://learningenglish.voanews.com/a/ukrainian-refugees-sent-to-russia/6668730.html

For more on this theme:

The new shock of Russia’s war in Ukraine: Genocide fatigue

Ukraine calls for international tribunal to bring Putin to justice more quickly
https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/jul/21/ukraine-calls-for-international-tribunal-to-bring-putin-to-justice-more-quickly

Russia's Crimes: Proof Is the Easy Bit
https://cepa.org/russias-crimes-proof-is-the-easy-bit/

International court rejects Myanmar’s bid to halt genocide case

Ukraine Pushes to Try Alleged War Crimes as Fighting Rages
https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/article/ukraine-prosecutes-alleged-russian-war-crimes/

Destroying the Environment Is a War Crime, Too

How Military Starvation Tactics Became a War Crime
https://www.borgenmagazine.com/military-starvation-tactics/

Technological Change and the UN Framework of Analysis for Atrocity Crimes

Guterres says attack on UN in Congo may be war crime, asks for investigation

Russia’s mass relocations of Ukrainians are a crime against humanity — and point to a genocide
https://scroll.in/article/1028760/russias-mass-relocations-of-ukrainians-are-a-crime-against-humanity-and-point-to-a-genocide

Russian Forces Torturing, Unlawfully Detaining Civilians In Ukraine’s South, Reports HRW
RUSSIA/UKRAINE

Be Afraid, Russia Tells Occupied Ukraine
Kseniya Kirillova - Center for European Policy Analysis: 25 July 2022

The Kremlin is using a variety of tactics to intimidate and exploit the people of the occupied zones.
https://cepa.org/be-afraid-russia-tells-occupied-ukraine/

For more on this theme:

Britain says ‘inconclusive fighting’ continues in Ukraine’s Donbas and Kherson

Retired general: Ukraine's next move could put Russia in a dilemma

Russia tightens grip on eastern Ukraine with plans for secession referendums
https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/russia-tightens-grip-on-eastern-ukraine-with-plans-for-secession-referendums

Russia taking more of Ukraine just ‘new propaganda,’ Germany’s Baerbock says

Ukraine war: West's modern weapons halt Russia's advance in Donbas

How Putin’s Flawed Assumptions Doomed Russian Victory in Ukraine

Why Russian Soldiers Are Refusing To Fight In The War On Ukraine
https://www.rferl.org/a/russian-soldiers-ukraine-refuse-fight/31952117.html

Analysis: Ukraine war rekindles Europe’s demand for African oil and gas

Hackers, Hoodies, and Helmets: Technology and the changing face of Russian private military contractors

Will Belarus Fight for its Russian Master?
https://cepa.org/will-belarus-fight-for-its-russian-master/

More Russians must face personal sanctions over Ukraine invasion
https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/ukrainealert/more-russians-must-face-personal-sanctions-over-ukraine-invasion/

Why Russian Elites Are Standing By Putin
https://www.fpri.org/article/2022/07/why-russian-elites-are-hanging-together-for-now/
RUSSIA/UKRAINE

For more on this theme:

**Escaping A Bear Hug: Kazakhstan Seeks Closer Ties To US And Europe – Analysis**

**What the CIA Director Knows About the Russian President**
https://www.thecipherbrief.com/column_article/what-the-cia-director-knows-about-the-russian-president

**Ukraine Should Beware of the Bear at the Back Door**

**Experts Say Russia Turns to Sanctioned North Korea to Break Rules**

**Putin on the Diplomacy: Assessing Russian-Iranian relations**
https://english.alaraby.co.uk/analysis/putin-diplomacy

**Putin’s propaganda machine hammers EU while Brussels sleeps**
https://www.politico.eu/article/russia-disinformation-africa-europe-sergey-lavrov/

**The Good Engineer Zima**
https://cepa.org/the-good-engineer-zima/

**Sanctions, Cyber, and Crypto: How Pyongyang Can Exploit the War in Ukraine**

**Winter is coming: staying the course on Ukraine**
https://www.lowyinstitute.org/the-interpreter/winter-coming-staying-course-ukraine

**Blinken: War in Ukraine has ‘weakened Russia profoundly’**
https://thehill.com/policy/international/3576735-blinken-war-in-ukraine-has-weakened-russia-profoundly/

**Russia says it will quit International Space Station after 2024**

**Ukraine war: Russia’s invasion is an attempt to rewrite its own history**

**Russia's aggression against Ukraine: the EU targets additional 54 individuals and 10 entities**

**Far from Ukraine, Russia plans big eastern war games next month**

**US accuses Russia of deepening global food crisis — as it happened**
RUSSIA/UKRAINE

For more on this theme:

Ukraine’s neighbor worried about Russian invasion

The Ukrainian fighters standing in Russia’s way on eastern front

Killing Kharkiv: Russia Punishes Ukraine’s Second-Largest City

Russia watchdog makes moves to punish Wikipedia over ‘fake’ Ukraine war articles
https://www.euronews.com/next/2022/07/21/russia-watchdog-makes-moves-to-punish-wikipedia-over-fake-ukraine-war-articles

Iranian drones could make Russia’s military more lethal in Ukraine

Russia Blocks Another Website By Novaya Gazeta Staff Over Ukraine War Coverage
https://www.rferl.org/a/russia-blocks-novaya-gazeta-website-ukraine-war/31957469.html

Helping Ukraine Not “Provoking” Russia But a Proper Response to Years of Global Russian Aggression

Amid Ukraine Invasion, China Sends Main Battle Tanks, PLA Soldiers To Russia For ‘War Olympics’

Russia-linked APTs targeted fleeing Ukrainian civilians

For The Kremlin, The Ukraine Endgame Is A Moving Target
https://www.rferl.org/a/russia-engame-ukraine-moving-target/31955645.html

Why isn’t Russia doing more to jam GPS in Ukraine?

Russia Forms “Ethnic” Battalions Deployed In Ukraine
https://warsawinstitute.org/russia-forms-ethnic-battalions-deployed-ukraine/