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A CURRENT AWARENESS SERVICE FROM THE MARSHALL CENTER

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COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

China's Draft Criminal Law Amendment Eyes Corruption in Private Firms Anushka Saxena – The Diplomat: 1 August 2023

The private sector would be included under anti-bribery and anti-corruption provisions.

https://thediplomat.com/2023/08/chinas-draft-criminal-law-amendment-eyes-corruption-in-private-firms/

Ukraine must not forget fight against corruption while battling Russia Brian Mefford – Atlantic Council: 27 July 2023

Audiences everywhere are rooting for Ukraine to win the war and succeed in its postwar reconstruction. However, corruption continues to threaten the country from within and could help the Kremlin achieve its goals.

https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/ukrainealert/ukraine-must-not-forget-fight-against-corruption-while-battling-russia/

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China owes world explanation for abrupt removal of foreign minister

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Vietnam jails former officials and diplomats in mass bribery trial

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Guatemalan Election Runoff Endangered by Corrupt Authorities

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Media Trials in Uzbekistan Put Ethics, Corruption in Spotlight

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Son Of Kyrgyz President's Cousin Detained On Corruption Charges

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Australia told to call out China corruption in Pacific

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Corruption in South Africa: whistleblower protection law is being reformed — but it may not go far enough

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Creating an international anti-corruption court is a noble idea, but can it work?

https://fcpablog.com/2023/07/31/creating-an-international-anti-corruption-court-is-a-noble-idea-but-can-it-work/

Moldova Anti-Corruption Prosecution Protests Law Change Making it 'Irrelevant'

https://balkaninsight.com/2023/07/28/moldova-anti-corruption-prosecution-protests-law-change-making-it-irrelevant/

DRUG TRAFFICKING

How a 'Jihadi drug' resurrected war-torn Syria as a narco-state James E. Baldwin – The Telegraph: 31 July 2023

The country's booming drug industry has become a "financial lifeline" for the Assad regime.

https://www.telegraph.co.uk/global-health/terror-and-security/syria-drug-captagon-manufacturing-deal-ing-trafficking-assad/

Dark Web, Telegram Give Easy Access to LSD, Heroin and Cocaine, Finds Report on Drug Trafficking

Bhaswati Guha Majumder – News 31 :18 July 2023

The dark web and instant messaging services are being rampantly used for trafficking, the India Future Foundation said in a report.

https://www.news18.com/tech/dark-web-telegram-give-easy-access-to-lsd-heroin-and-cocaine-finds-report-on-drug-trafficking-8471263.html

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Uruguay's Top Trafficker Disappears Yet Again in Bolivia

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Peru's cocaine trade overruns remote Indigenous territory

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Pakistan ends capital punishment for drug trafficking convicts

https://www.aa.com.tr/en/asia-pacific/pakistan-ends-capital-punishment-for-drug-trafficking-convicts/2954088

Trafficking victims endured 'horrible conditions' in US illegal drug operation

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Bolivia Strengthens Operations Against Narcotrafficking

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Spanish police arrest Mexican drug cartel kingpin in Madrid

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TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

Conflict and organised crime are razing CAR's rainforests

Oluwole Ojewale – Institute for Security Studies: 1 August 2023

International support is needed to sanction businesses complicit in timber trafficking from the Central African Republic.

https://issafrica.org/iss-today/conflict-and-organised-crime-are-razing-cars-rainforests

Wildlife trade threatens the most evolutionarily and functionally distinct animals Chrissy Sexton – Earth.com: 30 July 2023

It is placing a growing and undeniable risk to the world's most unique and archaic species and the roles they play in maintaining ecosystems, according to research led by the University of Sheffield.

https://www.earth.com/news/wildlife-trade-threatens-the-most-evolutionarily-and-functionally-distinct-animals/

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Insecurity has affected three national parks — but that is not the greatest threat to wildlife conservation in Nigeria

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The Stainless-Steel Boom Is Tearing a South African Mining Region Apart

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Study confirms surge in deforestation in Indigenous lands under Bolsonaro

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Shark Fin Trade Thriving in Latin America, Despite Promises of Progress

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'Mud, muck and death': Cambodia's plan to obstruct trawlers and revive local fishing

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Protecting India's Imperiled Wildlife With 3D Printed Teeth

https://reasonstobecheerful.world/protecting-indias-imperiled-wildlife-3d-printed-teeth/

PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

INTERNET GOVERNANCE

Integrated Internet Internationalism

Melanie Garson and Pete Furlong - Observer Research Foundation: 1 August 2023

As crises emerge across the world, governments and tech companies find themselves unprepared for the role of global internet protector. A new approach to stability and digital resilience is required.

https://www.orfonline.org/research/integrated-internet-internationalism/

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INTERNET FREEDOM

Senegal blocks internet access again

Boluwatife Ayo-Odewalev – Technext: 2 August 2023

The Senegalese government has announced that internet services will be restricted to curb the spread of hateful messages on social media.

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https://mwi.westpoint.edu/irregular-warfare-podcast-the-rise-of-digital-repression/

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(Vietnam) Vietnam Orders Social Media Firms to Cut 'Toxic' Content Using AI

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China's cyber interference and transnational crime groups in Southeast Asia Albert Zhang and Danielle Cave – The Strategist: 24 July 2023

The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) has a long history of engagement with criminal organizations and proxies to achieve its strategic objectives. There is new evidence of the development of a CCP-linked influence-for-hire industry.

https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/chinas-cyber-interference-and-transnational-crime-groups-in-southeast-asia/

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Cyberattack on Norway Ministries Lasted at Least Four Months

Ott Ummelas – Bloomberg: 2 August 2023

A cyberattack on Norway's government ministries exploited a vulnerability linked to mobile device management, according to Norwegian and U.S. cybersecurity agencies.

https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2023-08-02/cyberattack-on-norway-ministries-last-ed-at-least-four-months#xj4y7vzkg

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https://www.securityweek.com/bedding-giant-tempur-sealy-takes-systems-offline-following-cyberattack/

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What is the UN cybercrime treaty and why does it matter?

Isabella Wilkinson – Chatham House: 2 August 2023

The first binding United Nations instrument on a cyber issue carries potential benefits and risks. Here are the key issues in the negotiations and likely paths forward.

https://www.chathamhouse.org/2023/08/what-un-cybercrime-treaty-and-why-does-it-matter

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Protecting Critical Infrastructure: Cybersecurity Challenges Dan Vigdor – Forbes: 2 August 2023

In an interconnected world, key industries have become prime targets for cyberattacks.

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ISIS AND FOREIGN FIGHTERS

Pakistan suicide bombing death toll rises to 63 Al Jazeera: 2 August 2023

More than 120 others were wounded in the attack that targeted a rally for the religious political party Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazal.

https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/8/2/pakistan-suicide-bombing-death-toll-rises-to-63

Defeated and Detained, Islamic State Still Poses Extremism Threat

Kali Robinson - Council on Foreign Relations: 31 July 2023

Years after defeating the Islamic State group on the battlefield, world governments are now grappling with what to do with the thousands of war-related detainees in Syria.

https://www.cfr.org/in-brief/defeated-and-detained-islamic-state-still-poses-extremism-threat

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U.S. sanctions 20 people accused of supporting ISIS, al-Qaida in Maldives

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UK formally declares Islamic State atrocities against Iraq's Yazidi minority as genocide

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Five ISIS suspects arrested in Syria's al-Hol camp

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Islamic State attack in Syria targets oil convoy, kills 5 soldiers: Monitor

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Generation Jihad Ep. 96 — **New UN report on al Qaeda and the Islamic State** *Bill Roggio – Long War Journal: 1 August 2023*

The highlights from the U.N. Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team are discussed, including some points of disagreement.

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From Russia, with little to show for it

Peter Fabricius – Institute for Security Studies: 4 August 2023

President Vladimir Putin got more out of the Russia-Africa summit than did most of the African leaders.

https://issafrica.org/iss-today/from-russia-with-little-to-show-for-it

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Independent Thinking: How China views Ukraine

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African leaders leave Russia summit without grain deal or path to peace in Ukraine

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The Crimean Peninsula is both a playground and a battleground, coveted by Ukraine and Russia

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US intel report details increasing importance of Chinese technology to Russia's war in Ukraine

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'Child abductions' are Russian plan to weaken Ukraine, says UK envoy

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How Iranian-made kamikaze drones became part of Russia's arsenal in its war with Ukraine

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Russia is targeting Ukrainian national identity with attacks on heritage sites

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Ukraine Makes Hard-Fought Progress in the South

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'A War Crime Has No Statute of Limitations': One Year After The Blast That Killed Ukrainian POWs In Olenivka

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