

THE MARSHALL CENTER

transnational weekly



A CURRENT AWARENESS SERVICE FROM THE MARSHALL CENTER

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COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

Unexplained Wealth of Top Georgian Judge Highlights Obstacles Along Country's Path to Europe

Nino Ramishvili and Maya Metskhvarishvili – Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project: 7 August 2022

Reforms that would help Georgia fight corruption and are necessary to improve the country's relations with Europe have been blocked by a powerful group of judges known as "The Clan," who are reportedly close to Bidzina Ivanishvili, Georgia's richest man and the power behind the ruling Georgia Dream party.

<https://www.occrp.org/en/investigations/unexplained-wealth-of-top-georgian-judge-highlights-obstacles-along-countrys-path-to-europe>

'Jewel in the Crown of Corruption': The Troubles of Kenya's China-Funded Train

Abdi Latif Dahir – The New York Times: 7 August 2022

A never-completed, China-financed railway in Kenya has become a focal point of the country's elections. The project has been littered with corruption. Debt payments to China, for it and other major infrastructure projects, are causing significant economic disruptions.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/08/07/world/africa/kenya-election-train.html>

For more on this theme:

DASH: Corruption Hampers Albania's Investment Potential

<https://exit.al/en/2022/08/06/dash-corruption-hampers-albanias-investment-potential/>

Corruption is sending shock waves through China's chipmaking industry

<https://www.technologyreview.com/2022/08/05/1056975/corruption-chinas-chipmaking-industry/>

Kenya's election rips open scars of inequality, corruption

<https://apnews.com/article/africa-elections-campaigns-presidential-55b033431f23566703257aacbf5033b3>

Malawi Former Anti-Corruption Chief Arrested Over Graft

<https://www.voanews.com/a/malawi-former-anti-corruption-chief-arrested-over-graft-/6693017.html>

Former Puerto Rico Gov. Wanda Vázquez is charged with bribery

<https://www.npr.org/2022/08/04/1115685539/former-puerto-rico-governor-wanda-vazquez-bribery-charge>

U.S. seeks to seize \$90 mln plane owned by Russian oligarch

<https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/us-gets-seizure-warrant-90-mln-plane-owned-by-russian-oligarch-2022-08-08/>

Border checkpoint made a symbol in Bulgaria's election campaign

<https://sofiaglobe.com/2022/08/07/border-checkpoint-made-a-symbol-in-bulgarias-election-campaign/>

DRUG TRAFFICKING

Guinea-Bissau: State Institutions Hijacked by Cocaine Cartels

Josef Skrdlik – Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project: 9 August 2022

The Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime says in a report that Guinea-Bissau has experienced a significant decrease in cocaine seizures since the inauguration of President Umaro Cissoko Embalo in January 2020, despite an increase in drug shipments. In addition, the convictions of drug kingpins were overturned by Embalo-linked judges.

<https://www.occrp.org/en/daily/16652-guinea-bissau-state-institutions-hijacked-by-cocaine-cartels>

Ex-rebel takes oath as Colombian president in historic shift

Manuel Rueda – The Associated Press: 8 August 2022

Gustavo Petro, the former leftist guerilla recently elected Colombia's new president, swore to end the "failed" war on drugs. Among other challenges, Petro's government must deal with former revolutionary comrades who have not agreed to peace terms with the government and still fund their activities by trafficking narcotics.

<https://apnews.com/article/elections-colombia-caribbean-presidential-56620b5368ae476b30252d7230b56608>

For more on this theme:

U.S. slams China's 'unacceptable' disruption in countering fentanyl

<https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/us-slams-chinas-unacceptable-disruption-countering-fentanyl-2022-08-08/>

Dead Body in Paraguay Is Likely Serbian Drug Smuggler

<https://www.occrp.org/en/investigations/dead-body-in-paraguay-is-likely-serbian-drug-smuggler>

Narcotics shipments from Mercosur to Europe on the rise

<https://en.mercopress.com/2022/08/05/narcotics-shipments-from-mercosur-to-europe-on-the-rise>

Memo Fantasma Freed from Colombian Prison

<https://insightcrime.org/news/memo-fantasma-freed-from-colombian-prison/>

Azerbaijani border guards arrested for drug smuggling in Karabakh

<https://eurasianet.org/azerbaijani-border-guards-arrested-for-drug-smuggling-in-karabakh>

Balkan Ports Create "Ideal" Conditions for Trafficking, Report Finds

<https://www.occrp.org/en/daily/16633-balkan-ports-create-ideal-conditions-for-trafficking-report-finds>

The containerisation of trafficking and terminal safety

<https://www.porttechnology.org/news/the-containerisation-of-trafficking-and-terminal-safety/>

Uruguay Makes Historic Seizure of European Meth

<https://insightcrime.org/news/uruguay-historic-seizure-european-meth/>

TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

Plundered Oceans: IUU Fishing in South American Seas

Isabel Alarcon, Patricio Segura, Seth Robbins, María Fernanda Ramírez and Alessadro Ford
– *InSight Crime*: 3 August 2022

A comprehensive investigative report, conducted in cooperation with American University's Center for Latin American & Latino Studies, examines illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing in the waters of several South American countries and their devastating effects on legal fishing.

<https://insightcrime.org/investigations/plundered-oceans-iuu-fishing-south-america-seas/>

For more on this theme:

'Astronomical Money': How Smugglers Made Tens of Millions Moving Rare Birds Around the World

<https://www.occrp.org/en/investigations/astronomical-money-how-smugglers-made-tens-of-millions-moving-rare-birds-around-the-world>

Study warns of increased poaching if road through Brazil's Iguazu is reopened

<https://news.mongabay.com/2022/08/study-warns-of-increased-poaching-if-road-through-brazils-iguacu-is-reopened/>

Artisanal gold mining in South Africa is out of control. Mistakes that got it here

<https://theconversation.com/artisanal-gold-mining-in-south-africa-is-out-of-control-mistakes-that-got-it-here-188038>

Illegal Logging Is Rampant. Can IKEA Help Slow It Down?

<https://www.newsyc.com/stories/illegal-logging-is-rampant-can-ikea-help-slow-it-down/>

Tree Sleuths: How DNA is transforming the fight against illegal logging

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

This Teenager Invented a Low-Cost Tool to Spot Elephant Poachers in Real Time

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/innovation/this-teenager-invented-a-low-cost-tool-to-spot-elephant-poachers-in-real-time-180980522/>

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Human Trafficking Victims Grow as Mexico Government Strategy Falts

Parker Asmann – *InSight Crime*: 5 August 2022

Data released by a Mexican security agency indicates that human trafficking is on the rise in the country and is expected to reach the highest recorded level since 2015. However, the problem is greater than the statistics show. It is estimated that 1 in 100 human-trafficking cases is reported.

<https://insightcrime.org/news/human-trafficking-victims-grow-mexico/>

For more on this theme:

War in Ukraine creates human trafficking in Poland

<https://politic.com/war-in-ukraine-creates-human-trafficking-in-poland/>

Every Fourth Human Trafficking Victim in Europe Is a Minor, Report Shows

<https://www.schengenvisainfo.com/news/every-fourth-human-trafficking-victim-in-europe-is-a-minor-report-shows/>

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

For more on this theme:

GRETA calls on states, civil society and tech companies to counter the use of technology to recruit and control victims of human trafficking

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/portal/-/greta-calls-on-states-civil-society-and-tech-companies-to-counter-the-use-of-technology-to-recruit-and-control-victims-of-human-trafficking>

These are all the endangered species criminals tried to smuggle in just one month

<https://www.euronews.com/green/2021/12/01/these-are-all-the-endangered-species-criminals-tried-to-smuggle-in-just-one-month>

Nigeria: Pentecostal Churches Complicit in Human Trafficking

<https://www.occrp.org/en/daily/16640-nigeria-pentecostal-churches-complicit-in-human-trafficking>

Addressing Human Trafficking: What's Working And What's Not

<https://theowp.org/reports/addressing-human-trafficking-whats-working-and-whats-not/>

How to Stop Labor & Human Trafficking in Supply Chains: Use Analytics

<https://www.sdexec.com/software-technology/ai-ar/article/22379517/keyefficiencies-inc-how-to-stop-labor-human-trafficking-in-supply-chains-use-analytics>

'They kill you, they kidnap you, they rape you': Trafficking victims speak of the dangers they face

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/latino/-kill-kidnap-rape-trafficking-victims-speak-dangers-face-rcna40952>

Guatemala Sex Traffickers Earn Millions Through Deception

<https://insightcrime.org/news/guatemala-sex-traffickers-earn-millions/>

ORGANIZED CRIME AND MONEY LAUNDERING

Opinion | The Foreign Policies of the Sinaloa Cartel & CJNG – Part II: The Asia-Pacific *Vanda Felbab-Brown – Mexico Today: 5 August 2022*

The innovative Sinaloa Cartel began developing import-export networks throughout the Asia-Pacific region in the early 2000s under the leadership of Joaquín “El Chapo” Guzmán Loera, exporting cocaine and importing crystal-meth precursors. The newer Cartel Jalisco Nueva Generación is following Sinaloa’s example.

<https://mexicotoday.com/2022/08/05/opinion-the-foreign-policies-of-the-sinaloa-cartel-cjng-part-ii-the-asia-pacific/>

Are cryptocurrencies driving further money laundering?

Talat Zaki Hafiz – Arab News: 10 August 2022

Money laundering has proved difficult to counter, not least of all because countries have different definitions of what constitutes it. Money laundering is most simply defined as the cleaning of dirty money obtained through illegal activities. The emergence of cryptocurrencies has made it even more difficult to detect.

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/2140241>

ORGANIZED CRIME AND MONEY LAUNDERING

For more on this theme:

Travelling gang of South American thieves dismantled after robberies in France and Spain

<https://www.europol.europa.eu/media-press/newsroom/news/travelling-gang-of-south-american-thieves-dismantled-after-robberies-in-france-and-spain>

In Canada's Yukon, U.S. Border Creates a Ripe Environment for Organized Crime

<https://www.occrp.org/en/daily/16645-in-canada-s-yukon-u-s-border-creates-a-ripe-environment-for-organized-crime>

Crown Sydney casino opens – another beacon for criminals looking to launder dirty money

<https://theconversation.com/crown-sydney-casino-opens-another-beacon-for-criminals-looking-to-launder-dirty-money-184253>

Interpol: Environmental Crime Devastating to Planet

<https://www.occrp.org/en/daily/16657-interpol-environmental-crime-devastating-to-planet>

US sanctions cryptocurrency service allegedly used by North Korea for money laundering

<https://www.cnn.com/2022/08/08/politics/us-cryptocurrency-sanctions-north-korea/index.html>

Northern Chile Struggling to Contain Skyrocketing Homicide Rate

<https://insightcrime.org/news/downward-spiral-continues-iquique-tarapaca-northern-chile/>

Hackers and fraudsters used crypto bridge RenBridge to launder \$540 million, says report

<https://www.theverge.com/2022/8/10/23299841/crypto-bridge-renbridge-used-launder-money-russia-north-korea-ransomware-report>

PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

INTERNET GOVERNANCE

Protecting the open internet from China's latest government body

Konstantinos Komaitis – The Brookings Institute: 4 August 2022

China aims to advance its authoritarian data-control measures while replacing the current multi-stakeholder system. Beijing previewed that vision at the recent World Internet Conference in Wuzhen, China.

<https://www.brookings.edu/techstream/protecting-the-open-internet-from-chinas-latest-governance-body/>

For more on this theme:

(Kenya, Global) Banning Content Platforms is Not a Solution to Hate Speech on the Internet, Even When the Platform is Meta

<https://www.justsecurity.org/82601/banning-content-platforms-is-not-a-solution-to-hate-speech-on-the-internet-even-when-the-platform-is-meta/>

For more on this theme:

(EU) The EU takes on Big Tech with landmark legislative package

<https://eandt.theiet.org/content/articles/2022/08/the-eu-takes-on-big-tech-with-landmark-legislative-package/>

(China) Behind the Facade of China's Cyber Super-Regulator

<https://digichina.stanford.edu/work/behind-the-facade-of-chinas-cyber-super-regulator/>

(Taiwan) An interview with Lee and Li Attorneys at Law discussing Privacy and Cybersecurity in Taiwan

<https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=5db05a25-e849-4ca8-9bcf-17453f562cdc>

(Kosovo) Kosovo Renews Crypto Mining Ban Amid Rising Energy Prices

<https://news.bitcoin.com/kosovo-renews-crypto-mining-ban-amid-rising-energy-prices/>

INTERNET FREEDOM

Why regulating “bad speech” online is one of society's biggest conundrums

Lee C. Bollinger and Geoffrey R. Stone – Big Think: 8 August 2022

Which is a bigger threat to democracy: “bad speech” or its censorship? An excerpt from the new book, “Social Media, Freedom of Speech, and the Future of our Democracy,” looks at how free societies, especially the United States where freedom of speech is widely protected by the Constitution, deal with “bad” speech, such as disinformation, incitement to violence and hate speech.

<https://bigthink.com/the-present/free-speech-on-the-internet/>

For more on this theme:

(Russia) Russia Has Blocked 138K Websites Since Ukraine Invasion, Prosecutor Says

<https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2022/08/08/russia-has-blocked-138k-websites-since-ukraine-invasion-prosecutor-says-a78532>

INTERNET FREEDOM

For more on this theme:

(India) Manipur: Mobile Internet Remains Suspended, Prohibitory Orders Imposed After Protests

<https://thewire.in/rights/manipur-mobile-internet-suspended>

(Indonesia) Classic Internet Censorship

<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/08/04/technology/internet-censorship.html>

(U.K.) The UK Online Safety Bill Attacks Free Speech and Encryption

<https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2022/08/uks-online-safety-bill-attacks-free-speech-and-encryption>

CYBER STATECRAFT AND STRATEGY

The Russo-Ukrainian War Rewrites the Laws of Cyber-Warfare

Kerem Gülen – Dataconomy: 4 August 2022

Unsurprisingly, Ukraine has seen a spike in cyberattacks since Russia invaded in February. Most attacks involve espionage and disruption or destruction of state information services. Ukraine is the primary target but not the only one. The war has led to increased cybersecurity cooperation among the United States, Western Europe and Ukraine.

<https://dataconomy.com/2022/08/the-laws-of-cyber-warfare-being-rewritten/>

For more on this theme:

(China, U.S., Ukraine) Chinese Disinformation Group Targeted Pelosi's Taiwan Visit

<https://www.defenseone.com/technology/2022/08/chinese-disinformation-group-targeted-pelosis-taiwan-visit/375377/>

(U.S., Global) Why Digital Trust Is Fundamental For The Future Of The Internet

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/forbestechcouncil/2022/08/08/why-digital-trust-is-fundamental-for-the-future-of-the-internet/>

(Philippines) Seize the opportunity to be a digital economic power

<https://www.bworldonline.com/editors-picks/2022/08/09/467092/seize-the-opportunity-to-be-a-digital-economic-power/>

(Uganda) Online Media Owners asks Members of Parliament to Overhaul New Cyber Law

<https://african.business/2022/08/apo-newsfeed/online-media-owners-asks-members-of-parliament-to-overhaul-new-cyber-law/>

(U.S., Israel) Money and Partnerships Matter in Cybersecurity

https://www.thecipherbrief.com/column_article/money-and-partnerships-matter-in-cybersecurity

CYBER ATTACKS, THREATS AND VULNERABILITIES

How Cyberattackers Are Cultivating New Strategies and Reconfiguring Classic Gambits

Richard Pallardy – Information Week: 11 August 2022

Former Israeli intelligence chief Yuval Wollman shares his view – one developed through decades as a security expert – of the cybersecurity ecosystem. Among other issues, he discusses changes in cyberattack strategies and how ransomware is linked to terrorism.

<https://www.informationweek.com/security-and-risk-strategy/how-cyberattackers-are-cultivating-new-strategies-and-reconfiguring-classic-gambits>

CYBER ATTACKS, THREATS AND VULNERABILITIES

For more on this theme:

(Global) Deepfakes Grow in Sophistication, Cyberattacks Rise Following Ukraine War

<https://www.darkreading.com/risk/deepfakes-grow-sophistication-cyberattacks-rise-ukraine-war>

(Taiwan, China) Explained: How China's Cyberattacks On Taiwan Are Seeking To Sow Chaos And Discord

<https://swarajyamag.com/world/explained-how-chinas-cyberattacks-on-taiwan-are-seeking-to-sow-chaos-and-discord>

(China, U.S., U.K., Global) Should your business worry about Chinese cyber attacks?

<https://www.itpro.co.uk/security/cyber-warfare/368769/should-your-business-worry-about-chinese-cyber-attacks>

(U.S., China) Russian hackers get the headlines. But China is the bigger threat to many US enterprises.

<https://www.protocol.com/enterprise/china-hacking-ip-russia-cybersecurity>

(Finland) Finland's parliament hit with cyberattack following US move to admit the country to NATO

<https://thehill.com/policy/technology/3595917-finlands-parliament-hit-with-cyberattack-following-us-move-to-admit-the-country-to-nato/>

CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING

Prescribing a New Paradigm for Cyber Competition

George Perkovich – War on the Rocks: 9 August 2022

The Russo-Ukrainian war seems to indicate that cyberattacks do not rise to the same threat level as nuclear or even conventional military threats and do not provide a decisive advantage in war. According to the book, “Cyber Persistence Theory: Redefining National Security in Cyberspace,” that means current U.S. cyber-deterrence strategies that rely on violent retaliation are inappropriate and ineffective because they are disproportionate to the harm done.

<https://warontherocks.com/2022/08/prescribing-a-new-paradigm-for-cyber-competition/>

For more on this theme:

(Global) How to build an organizational culture that is ‘cybersecurity ready’

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2022/08/cybersecurity-ready-organizational-culture-threats/>

(EU) How Europe aims to achieve strategic autonomy for semiconductors

<https://www.brookings.edu/techstream/how-europe-aims-to-achieve-strategic-autonomy-for-semiconductors/>

(Global) What's the Best Process? International Community Needs to Recommend Approaches to Implementation of Cyber Norms and Law

<https://www.stimson.org/2022/whats-the-best-process/>

(West Africa) ECOWAS strengthens capacity of Cybercrime First Responders

<https://www.ghanabusinessnews.com/2022/08/10/ecowas-strengthens-capacity-of-cybercrime-first-responders/>

(U.S.) States are Making Their Own Broadband Maps to Challenge the FCC's Data

<https://broadbandbreakfast.com/2022/08/states-are-making-their-own-broadband-maps-to-challenge-the-fccs-data/>

CYBERCRIME

How cybercrime is going small time

Chris Stokel-Walker – Protocol: 9 August 2022

While cyberattacks can cost big businesses enormous amounts of money, with recorded losses exceeding \$100 million, most cybercrime is relatively small scale, including identity theft and small-scale fraud, with average losses of less than \$9,000 per reported incident in 2021. Many criminals stay small intentionally to stay out of the crosshairs of law enforcement.

<https://www.protocol.com/sponsored-content/how-cybercrime-is-going-small-time>

For more on this theme:

(Global, Russia) Deep fake attacks and cyber extortion on the rise

<https://telecoms.com/516919/deep-fake-attacks-and-cyber-extortion-on-the-rise/>

(EU, Global) Aviation is facing a rising wave of cyber-attacks in the wake of COVID

<https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=4c9f8862-73c4-4255-9f71-d99c19e12e4c>

(Australia, Global) Australian Hacker Charged with Creating, Selling Spyware to Cyber Criminals

<https://thehackernews.com/2022/07/australian-hacker-charged-with-creating.html>

For more on this theme:

(Global) 70+ Notable Ransomware Statistics And Trends 2022

<https://www.enterpriseappstoday.com/stats/ransomware-statistics.html>

(Kazakhstan) Kazakh Authorities Arrest 23 Suspected of Forcing IT Professional to Run an Illegal Crypto Mine: Report

<https://www.coindesk.com/policy/2022/08/09/kazakh-authorities-arrest-23-suspected-of-forcing-it-professional-to-run-an-illegal-crypto-mine/>

PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

ISIS

ISIS Redux: The Central Syria Insurgency in July 2022

Gregory Waters – Counter Extremism Project: 4 August 2022

July witnessed more official ISIS media from central Syria than had been published in the past two years. It's possible the activity was timed to coincide with an unprecedented drop in ISIS attacks in the region. That trend might continue as long as ISIS finds it easier to operate there.

<https://www.counterextremism.com/blog/isis-redux-central-syria-insurgency-july-2022>

For more on this theme:

ISIS targets Shiites in Afghanistan, further roiling Taliban rule

https://www.stripes.com/theaters/middle_east/2022-08-05/isis-targets-shiites-afghanistan-6888529.html

ISIS should not be referred to as 'Islamic State', says UAE

<https://www.thenationalnews.com/uae/government/2022/08/10/isis-should-not-be-referred-to-as-islamic-state-says-uae/>

US terror victims sue Ericsson over alleged bribes to ISIS and al Qaeda in Iraq

<https://www.datacenterdynamics.com/en/news/us-terror-victims-sue-ericsson-over-alleged-bribes-to-isis-and-al-qaeda-in-iraq/>

Christians still displaced from northern Iraq 8 years after ISIS invasion

<https://www.baptistpress.com/resource-library/news/christians-still-displaced-from-northern-iraq-8-years-after-isis-invasion/>

Daesh/ISIS 'significantly increased' drone use in past year, UN warns

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/world/daesh-isis-significantly-increased-drone-use-in-past-year-un-warns/2657704>

Suspected jihadists kill at least 21 in north Mali attack

<https://www.france24.com/en/africa/20220808-at-least-17-killed-in-clashes-with-isis-militants-in-mali>

6 years on, memories of Daesh/ISIS prison cell haunt Ezidi woman

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/6-years-on-memories-of-daesh-isis-prison-cell-haunt-ezidi-woman/2658360>

For more on this theme:

'ISIS Beatle', 38, appears in court flanked by two cops to face terror charges after being deported from Turkey on flight back to UK following seven-year prison sentence

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-11101471/ISIS-Beatle-38-charged-terror-offences-appear-court-TODAY.html>

Coalition members discuss community concerns with local leaders in NE Syria

<https://www.inherentresolve.mil/Releases/News-Releases/Article/3123925/coalition-members-discuss-community-concerns-with-local-leaders-in-ne-syria/>

TALIBAN/AL-QAIDA

Senior Pakistani Taliban leader reportedly killed in Afghanistan

Bill Roggio – Long War Journal: 9 August 2022

Omar Khalid Khurasani, a virulent senior leader of a dangerous faction of the Movement of the Taliban in Pakistan called Jamaat-ul-Ahrar, was reportedly killed in a roadside bombing in eastern Pakistan, though twice before he has been reported slain.

<https://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2022/08/senior-pakistani-taliban-leader-reported-killed-in-afghanistan.php>

Security Concerns Bring China Closer to Taliban

Zia ur Rehman – Voice of America: 11 August 2022

China has promised the Taliban regime economic and development support in exchange for attention to Chinese security concerns – especially in restraining any Uyghur militant groups in Afghanistan from targeting Chinese interests.

<https://www.voanews.com/a/security-concerns-bring-china-closer-to-taliban-/6697339.html>

Al Qa'ida and Islamic State Supporter Reactions to Zawahiri's Death

Meili Criezis – Global Network on Extremism & Technology: 8 August 2022

This report examines the reactions by al-Qaeda supporters to Ayman al-Zawahiri's death, takes a closer look at pro-ISIS responses across a variety of platforms and reviews the more prominent narratives being promoted.

<https://gnet-research.org/2022/08/08/al-qaida-and-islamic-state-supporter-reactions-to-zawahiris-death/>

For more on this theme:

Ayman al-Zawahiri's killing: What next for al-Qaeda?

<https://english.alaraby.co.uk/analysis/ayman-al-zawahiris-killing-what-next-al-qaeda>

Crew with Indian broadcaster WION News beaten, detained by Taliban in Kabul

<https://cpj.org/2022/08/crew-with-indian-broadcaster-wion-news-beaten-detained-by-taliban-in-kabul/>

Amnesty International Calls on Taliban to Protect Shia Community after Deadly Explosions

<https://www.khaama.com/amnesty-international-calls-on-taliban-to-protect-shia-community-after-deadly-explosions-58494/>

For more on this theme:

Top Taliban cleric killed in Kabul suicide blast claimed by Islamic State

<https://www.straitstimes.com/asia/south-asia/top-taliban-cleric-killed-in-kabul-suicide-blast-claimed-by-islamic-state>

TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

Expert seeks probe of Boko Haram sponsorship

Chijioke Iremeka – The Guardian: 6 August 2022

Philip Njemanze, chairman of the Global Prolife Alliance, is urging Nigeria's federal government to establish a joint commission of inquiry to investigate the sponsorship of Boko Haram and insurgency in the country.

<https://guardian.ng/news/expert-seeks-probe-of-boko-haram-sponsorship/>

Suspected Islamists free over 800 prisoners in attack on east Congo jail

Erikas Mwisi Kambale and Fiston Mahamba – Reuters: 10 August 2022

Dozens of armed attackers freed the prisoners in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. Local authorities blamed an Islamist militant group.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/hundreds-prisoners-escape-after-armed-group-attacks-east-congo-facility-2022-08-10/>

For more on this theme:

Belgium received over 200 terrorist and extremist threats last year

<https://www.politico.eu/article/over-200-reports-of-terrorist-or-extremist-threats-in-belgium-last-year/>

Two Moroccan jihadists arrested after entering Europe alongside economic migrants via the Balkan route

<https://rmx.news/article/two-moroccan-jihadists-arrested-after-entering-europe-alongside-economic-migrants-via-the-balkan-route/>

Terrorism: HURIWA sends message to President Buhari over continued killing of soldiers, citizens

<https://dailypost.ng/2022/08/08/terrorism-huriwa-sends-message-to-president-buhari-over-continued-killing-of-soldiers-citizens/>

Remarks at a UN Security Council Briefing on Threats to International Peace and Security Caused by Terrorist Acts

<https://usun.usmission.gov/remarks-at-a-un-security-council-briefing-on-threats-to-international-peace-and-security-caused-by-terrorist-acts-7/>

South Sudan Defense Minister Angelina Teny Speaks Out on Extrajudicial Executions in Mayom

<https://thetowerpost.com/2022/08/10/south-sudan-defense-minister-angelina-teny-speaks-out-on-extrajudicial-executions-in-mayom/>

Army Officials Arrest Seven Boko Haram Logistics Suppliers In Borno

<https://independent.ng/army-officials-arrest-seven-boko-haram-logistics-suppliers-in-borno/>

COUNTERTERRORISM

Counterterrorism amidst US-China rivalry

Kabir Taneja – Observer Research Foundation: 9 August 2022

One year after the Taliban's takeover of Kabul, tectonic shifts in international relations, specifically from a U.S. point of view, are taking shape for the first time since the post-9/11 era. Amid the U.S.-China power struggle, a strengthening of global counterterrorism cooperation is needed.

<https://www.orfonline.org/expert-speak/counterterrorism-amidst-us-china-rivalry/>

Drone strike that killed al-Qaeda leader marks new era for US counterterrorism

Sean Mathews – Middle East Eye: 4 August 2022

Analysts and former officials cautioned against using Ayman al-Zawahiri's death to make projections about U.S. tactical abilities in the future. A former CIA officer and senior Pentagon official welcomed the strike as a victory but added, "This was done despite the obstacles created by a complete withdrawal from Afghanistan, not because of it."

<https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/drone-strike-killed-al-qaeda-leader-marks-new-era-US-counter-terror>

One year after Afghanistan, US spy agencies pivot towards China

Nomaan Merchant – Stuff: 9 August 2022

U.S. President Joe Biden and top national security officials are speaking less about counterterrorism and more about the political, economic and military threats posed by China and Russia.

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/world/us-canada/300657142/one-year-after-afghanistan-us-spy-agencies-pivot-towards-china>

For more on this theme:

How does use of 'ninja missile' change counterterrorism?

<https://www.c4isrnet.com/opinion/2022/08/10/how-does-use-of-ninja-missile-change-counterterrorism/>

In veiled reference to China, India slams blocking of UN listing of terrorists

<https://www.aninews.in/news/world/us/in-veiled-reference-to-china-india-slams-blocking-of-un-listing-of-terrorists20220809235137/>

New Zealand to sign 'strategic partnership' with Malaysia

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/politics/129512094/new-zealand-to-sign-strategic-partnership-with-malaysia>

Capacity building needed for sustaining peace in Africa

<https://www.africanews.com/2022/08/09/to-successfully-fight-extremism-and-terrorism-more-capacities-to-sustain-peace-needed-in-a/>

What's The Future Of Drones In Counterterrorism Operations And The Ukraine War?

<https://scienceblog.com/532718/whats-the-future-of-drones-in-counterterrorism-operations-and-the-ukraine-war/>

US vows to assist DRC in countering terrorism, mitigating impact of climate change

<https://www.news24.com/news24/africa/news/us-vows-to-assist-drc-in-countering-terrorism-mitigating-impact-of-climate-change-20220810>

India invites UNSC members for special meeting of Counter-Terrorism Committee in Oct

<https://www.theweek.in/news/world/2022/08/10/india-invites-uns-c-members-for-special-meeting-of-counter-terrorism-committee-in-oct.html>

RADICALIZATION

What Is Siege Culture?

Ben Lee – Center for Research and Evidence on Security Threats: 4 August 2022

Although a fringe set of beliefs, Siege Culture has underpinned many of the recent counterterrorism cases linked to the extreme right in the United Kingdom. Within Siege Culture, fascism is treated as a higher truth and a natural state in which Aryans will dominate all others.

<https://crestresearch.ac.uk/comment/what-is-siege-culture/>

Growing Radicalization among Baloch Youth

Asadullah Raisani – Pakistan Today: 2 August 2022

Scholars around the globe try to connect radicalization with faith and religion, but this is not always the case. Discrimination, apathy, psychological vulnerabilities and uncertainties can develop violent radicalization leading to extremism in youth.

<https://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2022/08/02/growing-radicalization-among-baloch-youth/>

For more on this theme:

Convicted Islamic terrorists ‘refusing’ to be deradicalised in UK prisons

<https://www.gbnews.uk/news/convicted-islamic-terrorists-refusing-to-be-deradicalised-in-uk-prisons/350309>

Kyrgyzstan’s Softer Approach to Islam Explains Lower Rates of Muslim Radicalization There, Usenov Says

<http://windowoneurasia2.blogspot.com/2022/08/kyrgyzstans-softer-approach-to-islam.html>

RUSSIA/UKRAINE

More Ukrainians returned home than fled to the EU in July

Tim Stickings – The National News: 9 August 2022

More Ukrainians returned to their home nation in July than fled to European Union countries, border police said. About 1.16 million Ukrainians entered the EU in July, a similar total to June and much smaller than the estimated 4 million who arrived in the first month of the war.

<https://www.thenationalnews.com/world/europe/2022/08/09/more-ukrainians-returned-home-than-fled-to-the-eu-in-july/>

Russian disinformation spreading in new ways despite bans

David Klepper – The Associated Press: 9 August 2022

After Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, the European Union moved to block RT and Sputnik, two of the Kremlin’s top channels for spreading propaganda and misinformation. Nearly six months later, the number of sites pushing that same content has exploded as Russia found ways to evade the ban.

<https://apnews.com/article/russia-ukraine-misinformation-european-union-government-and-politics-e5a1330e834fde428aab599b5c423530>

RUSSIA/UKRAINE

Russia dangles freedom to prisoners if they fight in Ukraine. Many are taking the deadly gamble.

Nick Paton Walsh, Daria Markina, Sebastian Shukla, Oleksandra Ochman and Darya Tarasova – CNN: 9 August 2022

Activists think hundreds of inmates – from murderers to drug offenders – have been approached in dozens of prisons across Russia and offered early release in return for fighting in Ukraine. CNN spoke to inmates caught up in Russia’s newest recruitment scheme, along with their relatives and friends.

<https://www.cnn.com/2022/08/09/europe/russia-recruits-prisoners-ukraine-war-cmd-intl/index.html>

Ukraine’s long-awaited southern counteroffensive begins with a bang in Crimea

Christopher Miller – Politico: 10 August 2022

Blasts that rocked a Russian military airfield in forcibly annexed Crimea signal the start of Ukraine’s counteroffensive in the south and a critical new phase of the war that could shape its ultimate outcome, two Ukrainian officials told Politico.

<https://www.politico.eu/article/ukraine-long-anticipate-southern-counteroffensive-begin-bang-crimea/>

How Russia’s war on Ukraine made energy security fashionable

Maryek Grzegorzcyk – Emerging Europe: 9 August 2022

For many in Europe – and beyond – questions are being asked as to why it has taken Russia’s invasion of Ukraine to spur the European Union into action. Should there not have already been a plan in place to end Europe’s overreliance on one strategic energy partner?

<https://emerging-europe.com/news/how-russias-war-on-ukraine-made-energy-security-fashionable/>

For more on this theme:

Western fund hits €1.5B in pledges to boost Ukrainian defense

<https://www.politico.eu/article/ukraine-allies-eu-uk-pledge-more-military-aid-amid-marathon-conflict/>

The Case for Cautious Optimism in Ukraine

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2022/08/09/ukraine-war-russia-optimism-winning-counteroffensive/>

Ukrainian resistance grows in Russian-occupied areas

<https://apnews.com/article/russia-ukraine-kyiv-moscow-80812f4d70f133d2d1616d11154e0cba>

Russia is desperate for troops and is promising big cash bonuses for volunteers to deploy to Ukraine, UK intel suggests

<https://www.businessinsider.com/russia-offering-cash-troops-deploy-ukraine-uk-intel-2022-8>

Ukraine war: Latvia MPs declare Russia a ‘state sponsor of terrorism’

<https://www.euronews.com/2022/08/11/ukraine-war-latvia-mps-declare-russia-a-state-sponsor-of-terrorism>

Foreign Fighters Are Becoming Battle-Hardened, and Dying, in Ukraine

<https://www.vice.com/en/article/jgp5pb/ukraine-foreign-fighters-us-volunteers>

‘Nuclear terrorism’: How a sinister Russian gambit is playing out from a Ukrainian nuclear power plant

<https://www.thestar.com/news/world/analysis/2022/08/08/nuclear-terrorism-how-a-sinister-russian-gambit-is-playing-out-from-a-ukrainian-nuclear-power-plant.html>

RUSSIA/UKRAINE

For more on this theme:

Russia puts Iranian satellite into orbit amid Ukraine conflict

<https://www.trtworld.com/middle-east/russia-puts-iranian-satellite-into-orbit-amid-ukraine-conflict-59585>

Turkiye to launch production of Bayraktar drones in Ukraine

<https://asiaplustj.info/en/news/world/20220809/turkiye-to-launch-production-of-bayraktar-drones-in-ukraine>

Seven Battlefield Signs Russia's Army Has Hit A Wall In Ukraine

<https://worldcrunch.com/focus/seven-reasons-why-putin-is-no-longer-making-progress>

"Referendum" in Zaporizhzhia Oblast: occupiers bring in film extras to Melitopol – mayor

<https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/08/8/7362378/>

Senior Commander of Putin's Elite Special Forces Killed in Ukraine: Report

https://www.newsweek.com/senior-commander-russia-elite-special-forces-dead-ukraine-1731874?piano_t=1

Ukraine Defense Officials Targeted in Russian Assassination Plot: Report

https://www.newsweek.com/security-service-ukraine-report-says-defense-officials-targeted-russian-assassination-plot-1731888?piano_t=1

Russia is violating International Humanitarian Law: UK statement to the OSCE Special Permanent Council

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/russia-is-violating-international-humanitarian-law-uk-statement-to-the-osce-special-permanent-council>

First ship carrying Ukrainian grain finally sold after Lebanese buyer refused cargo

<https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/ukraine-first-shipment-carrying-grain-buyer-found>

Ukrainians, Moroccans & Belarusian Citizens Were Main Recipients for First Residence Permits in 2021

<https://www.schengenvisainfo.com/news/ukrainians-moroccans-belarusian-citizens-were-main-recipients-for-first-residence-permits-in-2021/>

Austin pledges military training, support for Baltics

<https://apnews.com/article/russia-ukraine-nato-latvia-government-and-politics-be091569a0bee86bffeea0cc75b7179f>

Five foreign fighters to go on trial in so-called DPR

<https://www.egyptindependent.com/five-foreign-fighters-to-go-on-trial-in-so-called-dpr/>

US supports demilitarised zone around Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant

<https://www.thenationalnews.com/world/us-news/2022/08/11/us-supports-demilitarised-zone-around-ukraines-zaporizhzhia-nuclear-plant/>