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COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

Myanmar court convicts Suu Kyi on more corruption charges
Grant Peck – The Associated Press: 15 August 2022
A court in military-ruled Myanmar convicted the country’s ousted leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, on more corruption charges, adding six years to her 11-year prison sentence.

Paraguay’s vice president to resign following US corruption claim
AlJazeera: 12 August 2022
Hugo Velazquez Moreno has said he will resign and end his plans to run for president but intends to fight the accusations.

For more on this theme:
Liberia suspends three officials accused by U.S. of corruption

China’s laggard chips industry rotten with corruption
https://asiatimes.com/2022/08/slow-chip-sector-reform-leaves-china-unhappy/

The Guptas’ Arrest Must Set An Anti-Corruption Precedent In South Africa

Palm oil tycoon surrenders to Indonesian police over huge corruption case

Lao residents call for inspection of development projects to combat corruption

Pervasive Corruption in Govt, Private Sector Hampering Investments in Liberia — 2022 Investment Climate Report

Malaysian Court To Hear Final Appeal in Najib Corruption Case

Coal and corruption impede rollout of clean energy in Bosnia
DRUG TRAFFICKING

Mexico's drug gangs are now targeting civilians
Yucatan Times: 16 August 2022
A prison dispute between rival gangs spiraled out of control in Mexico, leading to street violence in Ciudad Juarez and the deaths of 11 people, including civilians.
https://www.theyucatantimes.com/2022/08/mexicos-drug-gangs-are-now-targeting-civilians/

For more on this theme:
Smuggled Picasso Painting Found after Arrest of Drug Traffickers in Iraq
Resolve in fight on drugs, trafficking
Clamp down on drug abuse will help address insecurity in Nigeria
https://dailystuff.co.nz/clamp-down-on-drug-abuse-will-help-address-insecurity-in-nigeria
‘Easy money’ attracts young people to crime, experts say

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Dominican Republic Struggles to Curb Rampant Sex Trafficking
Douwe Den Held – Insight Crime: 11 August 2022
The dismantling of a large transnational human-trafficking network in the Dominican Republic has revealed how women from Colombia and Venezuela are lured to the island before being forced into sexual labor.

For more on this theme:
Meta's Latin America expansion 'a boon to human smugglers'
Taiwan Frets for 'Thousands' Trafficked Into Cambodia
https://thediplomat.com/2022/08/taiwan-frets-for-thousands-trafficked-into-cambodia/
Tackle escalating human trafficking in Horn of Africa, IOM says
UK digital residence checks lock out refugees, slavery victims
https://news.trust.org/item/20220812092044-vk82l
TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

Shovelling for a pittance: East Africa’s young sand miners
Mohamed Daghar – Institute for Security Studies: 11 August 2022
Children are increasingly involved in the illegal sand trade that occurs in mostly remote areas and out of reach of anti-child labor advocacy campaigns. That makes it hard to determine the number of children involved.
https://issafrica.org/iss-today/shovelling-for-a-pittance-east-africas-young-sand-miners

Illegal Logging in Africa and Its Security Implications
C. Browne, Catherine Lena Kelly and Carl Pilgram – Africa Center for Strategic Studies: 12 August 2022
Illegal logging, often facilitated by the collusion of senior officials, is a growing feature of transnational organized crime in Africa. It has far-reaching security and environmental implications for the countries affected.

For more on this theme:
Why Separate Cyber Wing for Wildlife is Need of the Hour
https://indianmasterminds.com/features/beyond-headlines/why-separate-cyber-wing-for-wildlife-is-need-of-the-hour%EF%BF%BC/

Wild exotic pets aren't glamorous. Begin by amending Wildlife Act

South Africa lawmakers demand crackdown on illegal mining

Illegal mining in Brazilian Amazon is destroying soul of Indigenous tribes

Uruguay Seeks to Strengthen Fight Against IUU Fishing

Sand mining a boon for illegal industry at expense of Bangladesh’s environment

Global Fishing Watch welcomes international collaboration in fight against IUU fishing

Crime and no punishment: Impunity shrouds killings of Indigenous Amazonian defenders
PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

INTERNET GOVERNANCE

From Defending the Open Internet to Confronting the Reality of a Fragmented Cyberspace: Reflecting Upon Two CFR Reports on U.S. Goals in Cyberspace
Adam Segal – Lawfare: 11 August 2022

The era of the global internet is over. The internet is more fragmented, less free and more dangerous.

For more on this theme:
(Global) Internet Governance Forum Leadership Panel
https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/personnel-appointments/2022-08-16/internet-governance-forum-leadership-panel%C2%A0

(Global) The most important election you never heard of
https://www.brookings.edu/blog/techtank/2022/08/12/the-most-important-election-you-never-heard-of/

(Global) Digital Censorship Drives Trade Barriers, Fragments the Global Internet

INTERNET FREEDOM

PIN condemns internet shut down in Sierra Leone
Ebunoluwa Sessou – Vanguard: 12 August 2022

Paradigm Initiative has condemned the internet shutdown that followed political protests.

For more on this theme:
(Somaliland) Internet disrupted in Somaliland amid protests over postponed elections

(India) VLC says India internet providers blocking site poses threat to users
https://techcrunch.com/2022/08/17/vlc-india/

(Cambodia) Digital safety and internet freedom in Cambodia

(Turkey) Digital Authoritarianism in Turkey
CYBER STATECRAFT AND STRATEGY

What Are the Implications of the Cyber Dimension of the China-Taiwan Crisis?
Erica D. Lonergan and Grace B. Mueller – Council on Foreign Relations: 15 August 2022

China’s actions in cyberspace after U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi’s visit to Taiwan have been relatively muted. However, there are a number of ways China could use cyberspace in the run-up to a conflict in Taiwan.

https://www.cfr.org/blog/what-are-implications-cyber-dimension-china-taiwan-crisis

For more on this theme:

(Ukraine, Global) Cybersecurity in the Wake of Ukraine

(Global) Cyberattacks are reshaping modern warfare. How can countries and companies protect themselves?
https://www.euronews.com/next/2022/08/11/cyberattacks-are-reshaping-modern-warfare-how-can-countries-and-companies-protect-themselves

(U.S., Global) Former US Cyber Command and NSA chief makes the case for a cyber competition strategy

CYBER ATTACKS, THREATS AND VULNERABILITIES

U.K. Water Supplier Hit with Clop Ransomware Attack
Elizabeth Montalbano – Threat Post: 16 August 2022

The utility suffered a disruption in its corporate IT systems as a result of the cyberattack but claims that its water supply was not affected.

https://threatpost.com/water-supplier-hit-clop-ransomware/180422/

For more on this theme:

(Global) Ski-Doo maker BRP resumes operations following cyber attack; shares fluctuate

(U.S.) HanesBrands’ Second Quarter Dragged Down By Cyber Attack

(UK) NHS software could be offline for a month after ransomware attack on Advanced
https://thestack.technology/advanced-cyber-attack-4-week-wait/

(Ireland) Cyber-attack targets IT firm used by Northern Ireland’s health service
**CYBERCRIME**

*Cyber crime warning for businesses after change to Australian web domains*

_Frank Chung – news.com.au: 12 August 2022_

Businesses are being warned to take urgent action ahead of a major change to Australian websites in coming weeks.


_For more on this theme:*

(U.S.) _To fight cyber attacks, tech companies are banding together_


(Global) _Conti Cybercrime Cartel Using ‘BazarCall’ Phishing Attacks as Initial Attack Vector_


(Australia) _Going back to the future to fight cybercrime_


(Brazil) _Brazilian Federal Police Launches Cybercrime Unit_


**CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION**

*Preparing for Post-Quantum Critical Infrastructure*

_Michael J. D. Vermeer, Edward Parker and Ajay K. Kochhar – RAND: August 2022_

How are national critical functions vulnerable to future quantum-computing capabilities?

https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RRA1367-6.html

_For more on this theme:*

(U.S.) _After Colonial Pipeline, Critical Infrastructure Operators Remain Blind to Cyber-Risks_


(Costa Rica) _The Costa Rica Ransomware Attacks: The Implications of Cyberattacks on Critical Infrastructure_


(U.S.) _The importance of critical infrastructure protection in the energy sector_


(Global) _Bracing for the rising tide of cyber threats against the maritime industry_

ISIS AND FOREIGN FIGHTERS

**How the ISIS Beatles were caught**
Simon Rushton – The National: 17 August 2022
A “very significant” breakthrough came from a freed hostage who gave police their first clue.
https://www.thenationalnews.com/world/uk-news/2022/08/17/how-the-isis-beatles-were-caught/

**ISIS, Affiliates Remain ‘Global and Evolving’ Threat, Security Council Hears**
Homeland Security Today: 15 August 2022
In a joint briefing to the Security Council, United Nations counterterrorism officials confirmed that the threat posed by ISIS terrorists and their affiliates remains “global and evolving.”

*For more on this theme:*

**Islamic State conducts second major prison break in Congo**

**Hundreds Linked to ISIS Transferred From Syria to Iraq**

**With Zawahiri’s death, ISIS plots to spread, hog Al-Qaeda’s terror space**

**Islamic State ‘Beatles’: How 2011 arrests led to convictions**

**Islamic State militants ‘besiege key points’ near Egypt’s Suez Canal**
https://english.alaraby.co.uk/news/militants-besiege-key-points-near-egypts-suez-canal

**Al-Qaeda and Islamic State are on the rise in Africa**
https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2022/08/16/africa-mali-france-al-qaeda-isis-insurgents/

**Counter-IS Fight Offers Lessons for Future Conflicts**

**How ISKP Has Affected Afghanistan, Regional Security in Taliban-Ruled Country**

**Wives Of Islamic State Militants Return To Tajikistan, But Where Are They?**
https://www.rferl.org/a/syria-tajikistan-isis-isil-islamic-state/31989622.html
TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

The Taliban’s Islamic Emirate: An Exclusive Mullah Government
Weeda Mehran – The Diplomat: 16 August 2022

The Taliban have done tremendous damage to Afghanistan’s state institutions.

One Year After the Taliban Takeover: Regional Risks and Repercussions
Raheb Radfar – South Asian Voices: 15 August 2022

On August 15, 2021, the Taliban captured Kabul and retook power in Afghanistan two decades after the United States and its allies toppled their previous regime. Their abrupt return to power shocked those within Afghanistan and abroad and brought a new sense of uncertainty about the country’s future at the hands of an insurgent group.
https://southasianvoices.org/the-talibans-repercussions-for-the-region-one-year-later/

For more on this theme:
Opinion: What does Afghanistan look like a year later?

Jihadists Kill Russian Wagner Mercenaries, Africa Becomes Breeding Ground for Movement

Overview: A Year of Taliban Rule in Afghanistan

Taliban still ‘dangerous,’ says former US general Petraeus
https://www.arabnews.com/node/2141676/world

Sahel region: New battleground for international coalitions, terror groups

IntelBrief: Economic Hardship After One Year of Taliban Rule
https://thesoufancenter.org/intelbrief-2022-august-17/

Food Insecurity and Terrorism: What Famine Means for Somalia

Why Hezbollah Does Not Get Involved In Gaza Clashes – OpEd

If Hezbollah does carry out its threat of war, Lebanon could end up like Gaza
AL-QAIDA

Is Iran Grooming Al Qaeda as its New Proxy in Afghanistan?
Farhad Rezaei – The National Interest: 13 August 2022

If Iran can turn Al Qaeda Central into one of its proxies, efforts to destabilize Afghanistan would follow.

For more on this theme:
Implications of al-Zawahiri’s Killing for al-Qaida and Taliban

The Bin Laden Papers: The Inner Workings of Al-Qaeda’s Leadership
https://mwi.usma.edu/the-bin-laden-papers-the-inner-workings-of-al-qaedas-leadership/

Zawahiri’s Killing Ignites Fresh Global Campaign against Boko Haram, ISWAP

RADICALIZATION

Humor used in English-language terrorist propaganda magazines to reinforce identity, study shows
University of Exeter: 12 August 2022

Academics examined 82 jihadi magazines published in English and found that al-Qaida and the Taliban in particular use mockery and parody.

For more on this theme:
Belgian jihadism: A thing of the past?

Recommendation Systems and Extremism: What Do We Know?

JeM Financier Uses Social Media to Amplify Terrorist Propaganda Calling on Indian Muslims to Revolt
https://thewire.in/tech/jaish-e-mohammed-terrorist-recruiter-propaganda-calls-on-indian-muslims-to-revolt
CONFLICT AND CRIME

Putin’s Ukraine genocide is rooted in Russian impunity for Soviet crimes
Alexander Khara – Atlantic Council: 16 August 2022

Given the complete failure to hold Russia accountable for the crimes of the past, it is hardly surprising that these crimes are now being repeated. As feared, impunity has set the stage for a new era of atrocities.


For more on this theme:

Deadly Bomb Attack Deepens Ecuador’s Struggle with Gangs

ELN and Urabeños War Again in Northern Colombia

Analysis: Gang crime looms over election in Sweden as shootings spread

Is Russia using rape as a weapon of war in Ukraine?

RUSSIA/UKRAINE

After Ukraine, Is Kazakhstan Next in the Kremlin’s Sights?
Temur Umarov – Carnegie: 10 August 2022

A social media post by former Russian President Dmitry Medvedev warning that northern Kazakhstan could be next was quickly taken down, but it reflects the mindset of Russian hawks and is in keeping with Russian political dialogue, where few taboos remain.

https://carnegieendowment.org/eurasiainsight/87652

For more on this theme:

Russia’s Ukraine War is forcing the Belarus opposition to rethink strategy

Collaboration, Theft and Corruption: How Russia Tried to Co-Opt Kherson
https://iwpr.net/global-voices/collaboration-theft-and-corruption-how-russia-tried-co-opt-kherson

https://www.nytimes.com/2022/08/18/opinion/russia-putin-corruption.html

Putin’s Strategy in Ukraine, With Stephen Sestanovich
https://www.cfr.org/podcasts/putins-strategy-ukraine-stephen-sestanovich
RUSSIA/UKRAINE

For more on this theme:

- Is Chechnya next as the war in Ukraine shows no signs of stopping?
  https://jagwire.augusta.edu/is-chechnya-next-as-the-war-in-ukraine-shows-no-signs-of-stopping/

- India and Russia: friends for a reason, friends for a season

- How Unmoderated Platforms Became the Frontline for Russian Propaganda
  https://www.lawfareblog.com/how-unmoderated-platforms-became-frontline-russian-propaganda-0

- Generation UA: Young Ukrainians are driving the resistance to Russia's war
  https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/ukrainealert/generation-ua-young-ukrainians-are-driving-the-resistance-to-russias-war/

- Turkey Is the Biggest Swing Player in the Russia-Ukraine War

- Analysis: Unpacking Africa's divided stance on Russia-Ukraine war

- Russia Failing to Properly Pay, Feed Military Recruits in Ukraine — Report

- Long-Range Missiles? Special Op? Regardless, Crimean Air Base Blasts Are A ‘Real Quandary’ For Russia

- Russia and Iran double down on their strategic partnership
  https://www.criticalthreats.org/analysis/russia-and-iran-double-down-on-their-strategic-partnership

- Russia's Repeat Failures
  https://www.foreignaffairs.com/ukraine/russia-repeat-failures

- Ukraine-Russia grain deal: The unanswered questions
  https://www.politico.eu/article/ukraine-war-black-sea-grain-deal-reality-check/

- The Untold Truth About Russia-Kazakhstan Relations And Kazakh Politics — Analysis

- Putin Knows He Made ‘Mistake’ With Ukraine, Will Never Admit It: Stavridis

- Will war in Ukraine mark a new era for European defence research?
  https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-022-02185-x
RUSSIA/UKRAINE

For more on this theme:

Russia's invasion has highlighted Ukraine's nation-building progress

Russia Is Struggling to Replenish Its Troops in Ukraine
https://time.com/6205316/russia-troops-ukraine/

Russia now controls at least $12.4 trillion worth of Ukraine's energy, metal and mineral deposits, report says

Russia's digital attacks are haphazard, chaotic, says top Ukrainian cyber official
https://www.cyberscoop.com/ukraine-russia-cyber-zhora-industry2-sandworm/

Do not forget Belarus's involvement in Russia's war in Ukraine

War And Water: Shortages, Attacks Augment Health Risks On Ukraine's Front Lines
https://www.rferl.org/a/ukraine-war-lack-drinking-water/31991159.html

Russia's war priority: reorient units to strengthen southern Ukraine, UK says

The return of 'rasputitsa' and what it means for Russia's war in Ukraine

The real role of pro-Russian Chechens in Ukraine

Interview: From Food Shortages To Geopolitical Shifts, The Ripple Effects Of Ukraine War Take Hold

Russia Is Training Drone Hobbyists to Fight in Ukraine

Rivalry in the Information Sphere

How Russia's Nuclear Double Cross of Ukraine Teaches Dangerous Lessons

Support for Ukraine war remains high among Russians
RUSSIA/UKRAINE

For more on this theme:

Uzbek Government Warns Citizens in Russia Against Joining Ukraine War

‘Escalation? The Russians Have Already Escalated’: Former Estonian Spy Chief On Why The West Should Continue To Support Ukraine

‘Final Stage Putin’ And The War In Ukraine