THE MARSHALL CENTER

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A CURRENT AWARENESS SERVICE FROM THE MARSHALL CENTER

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COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

Guatemala's president-elect faces legal challenges that seek to weaken him. Here's what's happening

Sonia Pérez D. - The Associated Press: 29 August 2023

After weeks of uncertainty, the top electoral court finally certified Bernardo Arévalo as the winner. But federal prosecutors are seeking to suspend his party, throwing into doubt whether he will have support in Congress.

https://apnews.com/article/guatemala-election-corruption-explained-f7e64b92d7cb76490f-71211c129b8e9d

Ukraine uncovers corruption scheme implicating top officials

Claudia Chiappa – Politico: 25 August 2023

The ploy involves the purchase of food intended as humanitarian aid.

https://www.politico.eu/article/ukraine-corruption-railway-ukrzaliznytsia-food-volodymyr-zelenskyy/

For more on this theme:

Guatemala Chose a New Pro-Reform President. Can He Stem Corruption and Migration?

https://www.cfr.org/blog/guatemala-chose-new-pro-reform-president-can-he-stem-corruption-and-migration

Ex-French leader Sarkozy faces 2025 trial over alleged Libya corruption

https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/8/25/ex-french-leader-sarkozy-faces-2025-trial-over-alleged-libya-corruption

Guatemala arrests anti-corruption lawyer, prompting international outcry

https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/8/29/guatemala-arrests-anti-corruption-lawyer-prompting-international-outcry

Pakistani court suspends the corruption conviction and sentence of former Prime Minister Imran Khan

https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/court-suspends-corruption-conviction-sentence-former-prime-minister-102639256

Corruption in Afghanistan offers lessons for billions going to Ukraine

https://www.npr.org/2023/08/17/1194151502/corruption-in-afghanistan-offers-lessons-for-billions-going-to-ukraine

Ukraine's anti-graft police zero in on major wartime corruption

https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/ukraines-anti-graft-police-zero-major-wartime-corruption-2023-08-21/

Attacking foreign corruption blunts China's malign economic influence

https://the hill.com/opinion/congress-blog/4165883-attacking-foreign-corruption-blunts-chinas-malign-economic-influence/

Indonesia permit payoff raises alarm about palm oil industry corruption

https://news.mongabay.com/2023/08/indonesia-permit-payoff-raises-alarm-about-palm-oil-industry-corruption/

DRUG TRAFFICKING

DataInSights: The Cocaine Problem Ecuador's Presidential Candidates Cannot Wish Away

Steven Dudley and Luisa Acosta - InSight Crime: 23 August 2023

Two candidates remain in Ecuador's presidential race and, regardless of their security policies, neither can control the rising production of cocaine, which appears to be fueling spiraling violence.

https://insightcrime.org/news/datainsights-cocaine-problem-ecuador-candidates-cannot-wish-away/

Crack cocaine floods Brussels as alarm sounds over safety in EU capital

Claudia Chiappa and Nicolas Camut - Politico: 25 August 2023

Areas around the main international railway station are unsafe, hotel workers told Politico.

https://www.politico.eu/article/drugs-crime-swamps-brussels-crack-cocaine-gare-du-midi-eu-capital-belgium/

For more on this theme:

Honduras arrests mayor accused of trafficking cocaine to US

https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/honduras-arrests-mayor-accused-trafficking-co-caine-us-2023-08-27/

Ecuador Violence Fueled by Regional Drug Trade

https://globelynews.com/americas/ecuador-violence-drug-trade/

For Young Venezuelan Migrants in Brazil, Drugs, Gold and Early Death

https://pulitzercenter.org/stories/young-venezuelan-migrants-brazil-drugs-gold-and-early-death

The Azadi Briefing: Opium Sold Openly In Afghanistan, Despite Taliban Ban

https://www.rferl.org/a/azadi-briefing-taliban-opium-sold-openly-despite-ban/32553913.html

Is the Taliban getting hooked on fentanyl?

https://www.theneweuropean.co.uk/is-the-taliban-getting-hooked-on-fentanyl/

A spatial regression analysis of Colombia's narcodeforestation with factor decomposition of multiple predictors

https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-023-40119-3

The narco-highway creating chaos in a Honduran rainforest

https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/aug/17/honduras-moskitia-forest-krausirpi-narco-highway

Crisis and Opportunity: Unraveling Colombia's Collapsing Coca Markets

https://www.wola.org/analysis/crisis-opportunity-unraveling-colombias-collapsing-coca-markets/

The Taliban's Opium Ban Has Become an Existential Problem for the West

https://www.vice.com/en/article/7kxw3b/the-talibans-opium-ban-has-become-an-existential-problem-for-the-west

TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES.

The Poaching and Trafficking of Pangolins is Sowing Instability in Central Africa Mark Leon Goldberg – UN Dispatch: 24 August 2023

Pangolins are small mammals with hard scales and vital to biodiversity in forested regions. They are also the most trafficked mammal in the world.

https://undispatch.com/the-poaching-and-trafficking-of-pangolins-is-sowing-instability-in-central-africa/

Illegal logging thrives in Mexico City's forest-covered boroughs, as locals strive to plant trees

Maria Verza – The Associated Press: 28 August 2023

The extent of the devastation is astonishing, say groups and local residents who seek to preserve the forest that recharges aquifers and helps clean the polluted air.

https://apnews.com/article/mexico-city-illegal-logging-environment-rangers-39586451a563b-4732da11304aae0b8f3

For more on this theme:

Satellite monitoring helped tackle illegal logging, Forest Centre says

https://yle.fi/a/74-20045647

Poachers now on conservation side

https://www.arkansasonline.com/news/2023/aug/20/poachers-now-on-conservation-side/

Malaysia, a strong example of deforestation success story

https://www.nst.com.my/business/2023/08/944386/malaysia-strong-example-deforestation-success-story

Peru on War Footing Against Illegal Mining

https://dialogo-americas.com/articles/peru-on-war-footing-against-illegal-mining/

Ecuador and Uruguay Bring New Energy to Fight Illegal Fishing

https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/articles/2023/08/18/ecuador-and-uruguay-bring-new-energy-to-fight-illegal-fishing

USVs Could Deter IUU Fishing

https://www.usni.org/magazines/proceedings/2023/august/usvs-could-deter-iuu-fishing

How ASEAN Can Win Its War Against Illegal and Unregulated Fishing

https://thediplomat.com/2023/08/how-asean-can-win-its-war-against-illegal-and-unregulated-fishing/

Knowledge sharers: Guatemalan farms, tech firms mapping illegal fishing

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Is Evacuation of 8,600 Venezuelan Miners Just Another Smokescreen?

https://insightcrime.org/news/is-evacuation-of-8600-venezuelan-miners-just-another-smokescreen/

PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

INTERNET GOVERNANCE

A Victim's Perspective on International Law in Cyberspace

Chris Carpenter and Duncan B. Hollis - Lawfare: 28 August 2023

Costa Rica's recent position paper improves transparency on the country's legal views and provides a framework for future dialogue with other states.

https://www.lawfaremedia.org/article/a-victim-s-perspective-on-international-law-in-cyberspace

For more on this theme:

(Canada) Canada rolls out generative Al code of practice

https://iapp.org/news/a/canada-rolls-out-generative-ai-code-of-practice/

(Global) Can We Red Team Our Way to Al Accountability?

https://techpolicy.press/can-we-red-team-our-way-to-ai-accountability/

(Global) Governments race to regulate Al tools

https://telecom.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/internet/governments-race-to-regulate-ai-tools/102948957

INTERNET FREEDOM

Internet Shutdown Pushback in Kazakhstan

Catherine Putz - The Diplomat: 30 August 2023

Kazakh legislation allows various government entities to slow and stop internet traffic. A group of nongovernmental organizations wants the practice stopped for good.

https://thediplomat.com/2023/08/internet-shutdown-pushback-in-kazakhstan/

For more on this theme:

(China) China is big on internet censorship unless it's racist content, Human Rights Watch says

https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-08-18/china-big-on-censorship-unless-racist-content-beijing-hrw/102737360

(Cambodia) Cambodia: Problematic laws and restrictions on information are threatening digital rights

https://globalvoices.org/2023/08/21/cambodia-problematic-laws-and-restrictions-on-information-are-threatening-digital-rights/

(Iran) Suppressing Dissent, Filling Coffers: Iran's Regime Capitalizes on Internet Censorship

 $https://www.einnews.com/pr_news/651418505/suppressing-dissent-filling-coffers-iran-s-regime-capitalizes-on-internet-censorship$

CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING

Digitalization: How the EU Can Transform Central Asia

Alouddin Komilov - The Diplomat: 23 August 2023

The European Union has the potential to contribute to the digital transformation of the region by leveraging its comparative strengths.

https://thediplomat.com/2023/08/digitalization-how-the-eu-can-transform-central-asia/

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(Kenya) Communications Authority focuses on improving cybersecurity

https://www.kenyanews.go.ke/communications-authority-focuses-on-improving-cybersecurity/

(G20) G20 digital ministers sign up for Digital Public Infrastructure push

https://www.theregister.com/2023/08/21/g20_digital_public_infrastructure_plan/

(India) Digital Forensics: India's Roadmap for the Next Decade

https://www.the420.in/digital-forensics-indias-roadmap-for-the-next-decade/

CYBER STRATEGY AND RISKS

States' use of non-state actors in cyberspace

Aishwarya Raman - Observer Research Foundation: 17 August 2023

Without proper legislation, the use of nonstate actors for cyber warfare poses a significant threat to governments, businesses and individuals.

https://www.orfonline.org/expert-speak/states-use-of-non-state-actors-in-cyberspace/

For more on this theme:

(Australia) Op-Ed: Charting Australia's cyber security future – Imperatives for the next strategy

https://www.cybersecurityconnect.com.au/policy/9464-op-ed-charting-australia-s-cyber-security-future-imperatives-for-the-next-strategy

(EU) What is the EU's Cyber Resilience Act (CRA)?

https://www.itpro.com/business/policy-and-legislation/what-is-the-eus-cyber-resilience-act-cra

(China) Mounting Cyber Espionage and Hacking Threat from China

https://moderndiplomacy.eu/2023/08/19/mounting-cyber-espionage-and-hacking-threat-from-china/

CYBERATTACKS

North Korean Attackers Penetrated Russian Rocket Designer's Systems

Teri Robinson - Security Boulevard: 22 August 2023

Loose alliances between governments may not extend to the digital realm — North Korean attackers not only breached a Russian missile-maker but also stayed in its systems for nearly six months.

https://security boulevard.com/2023/08/north-korean-attackers-penetrated-russian-rocket-designers-systems/

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(U.S.) University of Michigan shuts down network after cyberattack

https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/security/university-of-michigan-shuts-down-network-after-cyberattack/

(U.S., Chile) Huge cyberattack disables telescopes in Hawaii and Chile

https://interestingengineering.com/science/hawaii-chile-nsf-telescopes-cyberattack

(UK) UK police cyberattack stark reminder of vendor vulnerability

https://supplychaindigital.com/supply-chain-risk-management/uk-police-cyberattack-stark-reminder-back-door-vendors-peril

CYBFRCRIMF

Cybercriminals in Russia and Iran will threaten Canada's security and economic prosperity, say intelligence agency and RCMP

Temur Durrani – The Globe and Mail: 28 August 2023

The threat from organized cybercrime will increase in the next two years as hackers from Iran and Russia increasingly attack critical infrastructure and high-value businesses, according to a report.

https://www.theglobeandmail.com/business/article-cybercriminals-in-russia-and-iran-will-threaten-can-adas-security-and/

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(Pakistan) Navigating Pakistan's Digital Revolution: Cybercrimes, Reporting, And Safeguarding

https://the friday times.com/19-Aug-2023/navigating-pakistan-s-digital-revolution-cyber crimes-reporting-and-safeguarding

(Malaysia) Public-private partnership enhances strategy to address cybercrime

https://www.the sundaily.my/local/public-private-partnership-enhances-strategy-to-address-cyber-crime-NE11379631

(Global) How international cybersecurity frameworks can help CISOs

 $https://www.csoonline.com/article/650279/how-international-cybersecurity-frameworks-can-help-cisos. \\html$

PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

ISIS AND FOREIGN FIGHTERS

UN experts say Islamic State group almost doubled the territory they control in Mali in under a year

Edith M. Lederer – The Associated Press: 26 August 2023

In June, Mali's junta ordered the United Nations peacekeeping force and its 15,000 international troops to leave after a decade of working to stem the jihadi insurgency.

https://apnews.com/article/mali-islamic-state-alqaida-violence-un-e841e4d5835c7fa01605e8fd1ea03f-cf.

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Shut Down Smuggling Network with Terrorist Ties, US Says

https://www.voanews.com/a/shut-down-smuggling-network-with-terrorist-ties-us-says-/7246835.html

Islamic State and Wagner Group Compete for Resources and Territory in Mali

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Brutal Slaying Marks Islamic State's Entry Into Conflict Between Nigerian Farmers And Herders

https://humanglemedia.com/brutal-slaying-marks-islamic-states-entry-into-conflict-between-nigerian-farmers-and-herders/

Lure of Jihad: How role of women in Islamic State is changing and gaining significance

https://www.firstpost.com/opinion/lure-of-jihad-how-role-of-women-in-islamic-state-is-changing-and-gaining-significance-12961412.html

The Fight for Justice for ISIS Victims in Australia

https://www.internationalaffairs.org.au/australianoutlook/the-fight-for-justice-for-isis-victims-in-australia/

No murders in Syria's Al Hol camp this year as it sees 'steady progress', says US general

https://www.thenationalnews.com/world/us-news/2023/08/16/no-murders-in-syrias-al-hol-camp-this-year-as-it-sees-steady-progress-says-us-general/

As ISIS affiliate expands in central Africa, escapees recount horrors

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Generation Jihad Ep. 98 — Fatal Transaction

https://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2023/08/generation-jihad-ep-98-fatal-transaction.php

Daesh continues to lose influence and effectiveness in Iraq, says US general

https://www.arabnews.com/node/2356476/middle-east

UN: ISIS leader in Sudan finances operations through Turkey

https://en.protothema.gr/un-isis-leader-in-sudan-finances-operations-through-turkey/

TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

Taliban Rule at the Two-Year Mark: Should We Worry About al-Qaeda and ISIS-K? Mahmut Cengiz – Homeland Security Today: 28 August 2023

The critical question of the Taliban's takeover has been whether Afghanistan could again become a haven for terrorists and pose a threat to international security.

https://www.hstoday.us/featured/taliban-rule-at-the-two-year-mark-should-we-worry-about-al-qaeda-and-isis-k/

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Somalia Military Offensive Suffers Setback as Troops Retreat

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Hezbollah warns against renewing UN peacekeeping mandate in Lebanon

https://www.i24 news.tv/en/news/middle-east/levant-turkey/1693285788-hezbollah-warns-against-renewing-un-peacekeeping-mandate-in-lebanon

The Taliban's Gender Apartheid in Afghanistan Is Part Of — Not Separate From — Its Terrorist Links

https://www.justsecurity.org/87634/the-talibans-gender-apartheid-policies-support-radicalization/

Two years after Taliban takeover: why Afghanistan still poses a threat to the region and beyond

https://the conversation.com/two-years-after-taliban-take over-why-afghanistan-still-poses-a-threat-to-the-region-and-beyond-211052

Africa: 'No African Country Will Be Truly Safe From Terrorism Until All Countries Are' https://allafrica.com/stories/202308110269.html

Time for a victim-centric approach in prosecuting sexual and gender-based violence committed by terrorists

https://www.icct.nl/publication/time-victim-centric-approach-prosecuting-sexual-and-gender-based-violence-committed

Dogo Gide's Bandits in Northwestern Nigeria Potentially Aligning With Jihadists

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Pakistani Taliban Broaden Support Among Baloch, Merge With Separatist Groups

https://jamestown.org/program/pakistani-taliban-broaden-support-among-baloch-merge-with-separatist-groups/

TJP: A Front Group for the Pakistani Taliban?

https://jamestown.org/program/tjp-a-front-group-for-the-pakistani-taliban/

Motorbikes and armed groups in the Sahel

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Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula's Drone Attacks Indicate a Strategic Shift

https://www.lawfaremedia.org/article/al-qaeda-in-the-arabian-peninsula-s-drone-attacks-indicate-a-strategic-shift

RUSSIA/UKRAINE

The War in Ukraine Is About Europe's Future

Judy Dempsey – Carnegie: 29 August 2023

Europe needs to rapidly increase its military support to ensure victory for Kyiv. A failure to do so would threaten the EU's security and credibility – and embolden Moscow.

https://carnegieeurope.eu/strategiceurope/90444

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Prigozhin's Death Shows Ultra-Patriots Are No Threat to the Kremlin

https://carnegieendowment.org/politika/90466

Why Yevgeny Prigozhin Had to Die

https://carnegieendowment.org/politika/90436

Why Putin Wanted Prigozhin Dead

https://www.foreignaffairs.com/russian-federation/why-putin-wanted-prigozhin-dead

Prigozhin's death ends a week of new commitments for Ukraine

https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/prigozhins-death-ends-a-week-of-new-commitments-for-ukraine/

Expert Commentary: Prigozhin's Death and the Future of Putin's Rule

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Fighting to Win: Ukraine, Russia, and the War for Survival

https://www.fpri.org/article/2023/08/fighting-to-win-ukraine-russia-and-the-war-for-survival/

Russia to resume offensive in east Ukraine after regrouping, Kyiv says

https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/russia-resume-offensive-east-ukraine-after-regrouping-kyiv-says-2023-08-25/

Ukraine's remarkable resilience may prove decisive in long war with Russia

https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/ukrainealert/ukraines-remarkable-resilience-may-prove-decisivein-long-war-with-russia/

How Can Ukraine Induce More Russian Soldiers To Quit?

https://www.forbes.com/sites/craighooper/2023/08/27/how-can-ukraine-induce-more-russian-soldiersto-quit/?sh=4d3f10bb25db

Deportation, Treatment of Ukraine's Children by Russian Federations Takes Centre Stage by Many Delegates at Security Council Briefing

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Russia plundering Ukraine's natural resources

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US intel: Ukraine war caused 'one of the most disruptive periods' for global food security

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UK and allies support Ukraine calling out Russia's GRU for new malware campaign

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Study: China Main Supplier of Critical Components for Russian Drones

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China Ponders Russia's Logistical Challenges in the Ukraine War

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Ukraine's Valley Forge Moment

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Ripples From Putin's Invasion Reach the Arctic

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Why Do Russians Scorn Ukrainian Independence?

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Russia's Sinister Gas Doll

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Prigozhin Dies, but Russia's Dark Fixers Live On

https://cepa.org/article/prigozhin-dies-but-russias-dark-fixers-live-on/

Russia may 'suddenly break' under pressure from Ukraine's counteroffensive, former US general Petraeus says

https://www.businessinsider.com/russia-may-suddenly-break-under-ukraine-counteroffensive-petraeus-2023-8

Russia's War in Ukraine and Women's Agency

https://www.gmfus.org/news/russias-war-ukraine-and-womens-agency

'Ukraine Has Retaken The Initiative From The Enemy,' Says Former Top NATO Officer

https://www.rferl.org/a/ukraine-counteroffensive-initiative-russia-nato-paola-tavberidze/32565728.html

The spiraling cost of war means growing economic pain for Russia

https://www.cnn.com/2023/08/28/economy/russia-military-spending-economic-impact/index.html

Ukrainian troops 'break through toughest Russian lines'

https://www.msn.com/en-gb/news/world/russia-ukraine-war-ukrainian-troops-break-through-toughest-russianlines/ar-AA1fNRFm

GMF Expert Analysis: Implications of Prigozhin's Death

https://www.gmfus.org/news/gmf-expert-analysis-implications-prigozhins-death

RUSSIA/UKRAINE

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The Ukraine-Russia Conflict Has Reached A Stalemate

https://www.eurasiareview.com/26082023-the-ukraine-russia-conflict-has-reached-a-stalemate-analysis/

Open Source Technology and Public-Private Innovation Are the Key to Ukraine's **Strategic Resilience**

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Russia: Prigozhin Buried In A Cloud Of Uncertainty

https://www.eurasiareview.com/31082023-russia-prigozhin-buried-in-a-cloud-of-uncertainty-analysis/

How The War Could Make Ukraine A Defense Powerhouse

https://www.eurasiareview.com/26082023-how-the-war-could-make-ukraine-a-defense-powerhouse-analysis/

Ukraine's counteroffensive might yet surprise critics

https://www.criticalthreats.org/analysis/ukraines-counteroffensive-might-yet-surprise-critics

Ukraine Symposium — Territorial Acquisition and Armed Conflict

https://lieber.westpoint.edu/territorial-acquisition-armed-conflict/

Europe's last war

https://www.lowyinstitute.org/the-interpreter/europe-s-last-war

With Prigozhin gone, what next for the Wagner Group?

https://www.lowyinstitute.org/the-interpreter/prigozhin-gone-what-next-wagner-group