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COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

**Hungary to set up anti-corruption body in bid to unlock EU funds**  
*Reuters: 6 September 2022*

Hungary will create an anti-corruption authority and a working group involving nongovernment organizations to oversee the spending of European Union funds, the government said in its official gazette.


**Top corruption prosecutor held in jail as Guatemalan elite bids to purge foes**  
*Jody García and Nina Lakhani – The Guardian: 1 September 2022*

Virginia Laparra has been detained in conditions “bordering on torture,” which critics say is retaliation for her efforts to fight corruption.

https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/sep/01/guatemala-prosecutor-jailed-virginia-laparra-corruption

*For more on this theme:*

**Corruption in South Africa: new book sets out how ruling ANC lost the battle**  

**Now, Karnataka schools body flags corruption, writes to PM**  

**Russia journalist arrested for donation to Navalny’s Anti-Corruption Foundation**  

**Corporations add ESG to financial crime risk screens as bribery & corruption risk surface in carbon offset schemes**  

**Will Latin America overcome its persistent corruption?**  
https://www.fairplanet.org/editors-pick/will-latin-america-overcome-its-persistent-corruption/

**Corruption academies**  
https://asianews.network/corruption-academies/

**Corrupt Police Play Both Sides in Guanajuato, Mexico**  

**The Dominican Republic’s Uphill Battle to Root Out Corruption**  
https://insightcrime.org/investigations/uphill-battle-root-out-corruption/

**Gibraltar government braces for public inquiry to hear corruption allegations**  
https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/sep/04/gibraltar-government-braces-for-inquiry-into-alleged-corruption-on-security-contracts
DRUG TRAFFICKING

From Empires to World Wars — A History of the Global Cocaine Trade
Douwe Den Held, Alessandro Ford and Chris Dalby – InSight Crime: 1 September 2022
The cocaine trade is one of the world’s biggest illicit economies. Since it was outlawed in the mid-20th century, the white hydrochloride salt has become the crown commodity of global organized crime.

The Dominican Republic — The Caribbean’s Cocaine Hub
Anastasia Austin and Douwe Den Held – InSight Crime: 7 September 2022
Caucedo is the single biggest point of cocaine confiscation in the Dominican Republic. Part of Caucedo’s appeal for traffickers is tied to the Dominican Republic’s strategic location between South American producer nations, the ever-lucrative United States and the increasingly popular European markets.
https://insightcrime.org/investigations/dominican-republic-caribbean-cocaine-hub/

For more on this theme:

Does Australia Receive Enough Cocaine To Meet Demand?

Behind the Manhunt for Sebastián Marset, Founder of the First Uruguayan Cartel

The foreign policies of the Sinaloa Cartel and CJNG — Part IV: Europe’s cocaine and meth markets

Anti-drugs general shot dead in south Iraq: police
https://english.alaraby.co.uk/news/anti-drugs-general-shot-dead-south-iraq-police

César Peralta, the Best Middleman in the Dominican Republic’s Cocaine Trade
https://insightcrime.org/investigations/cesar-peralta-best-middleman-cocaine-trade/

Price Differences Keep Peru’s Coca Flowing Illegally Into Bolivia

Afghanistan’s drug trade fuels extremism. Europe must act
https://www.euronews.com/2022/09/05/afghanistsans-drug-trade-fuels-extremism-europe-must-act-view

Saudi Arabia is becoming the drug capital of the Middle East

Albanian crime gangs increasing involvement in drugs trade
https://london-post.co.uk/albanian-crime-gangs-increasing-involvement-in-drugs-trade/
HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Nigeria’s efforts to help victims of trafficking are failing. We found out why
Uwafokun Idemudia and Nnenna Okoli – The Conversation: 25 August 2022

Rehabilitation is a core component of Nigeria’s anti-trafficking policies but the government has made only limited efforts to assess whether such programs help survivors. To address this gap, researchers looked into the experiences and perceptions of survivors.

For more on this theme:

Slavery and war are tightly connected — but we had no idea just how much until we crunched the data
https://theconversation.com/slavery-and-war-are-tightly-connected-but-we-had-no-idea-just-how-much-until-we-crunch-the-data-169904

Vietnamese parents forced to buy back children as human trafficking crisis in Cambodia escalates

Balkan Nations Fail to Tackle Human Trafficking
https://theowp.org/balkan-nations-fail-to-tackle-human-trafficking/

Human Trafficking on Ukraine’s Border

Human Trafficking Is a Security Threat to the Country — Gender Minister-Designate

Canada’s Modern Slavery Bill Nears Final Approval: New Reporting Requirements Are Coming

UN official says Cambodia faces ‘severe' human rights issues

People smugglers turn to violence in Calais migrant camp ‘the Jungle'
https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/people-smugglers-turn-to-violence-in-the-jungle-as-pressure-rises-97gwmc2

Human Trafficking in the Mekong region
https://globalinitiative.net/analysis/human-trafficking-in-the-mekong-region/

Indonesia pursues agreements to protect its fishers on foreign vessels
TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

ASU study: More than 1.1 million sea turtles poached over last three decades
Arizona State University: 7 September 2022

In a study published in Global Change Biology, Arizona State University researchers estimate that more than 1.1 million sea turtles have been illegally killed and, in some cases, trafficked from 1990 to 2020.
https://www.eurekalert.org/news-releases/963936

Study finds surge in illegal gold mining in Brazil
Agence France-Presse: 6 September 2022

The sharp rise in gold prices has driven a surge of illegal mining in Brazil — much of it in the Amazon rainforest, according to a study.

For more on this theme:
Lake Turkana’s entire tilapia species threatened by smuggling
https://issafrica.org/iss-today/lake-turkanas-entire-tilapia-species-threatened-by-smuggling

Brazil miner sees Indigenous land as ripe for exploration if protections expire

Prevent tree extinctions or face global ecological catastrophe, scientists warn
https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/sep/02/tree-extinctions-species-wildlife-ecosystems-scientists-aoe

Sihanoukville: A hub of environmental crime convergence
https://globalinitiative.net/analysis/sihanoukville-hub/

EU–Honduras agreement to reduce illegal timber logging and associated trade enters into force

Graft allows illegal logging in sanctuary

Brazil police probe indigenous deaths’ link to battle with loggers

A Bipartisan US Senate Bill Takes on Illegal Fishing

Illegal fishing, worker abuse claims leave a bad taste for Bumble Bee Seafood
PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

INTERNET GOVERNANCE

Web3 is coming — with national security implications, too
Sasha Fegan – The Interpreter: 5 September 2022

A new internet — for the people and by the people — is on the horizon. But decentralized power has its own problems.


For more on this theme:
(Africa) Battle for millions of African IP addresses turns nasty
https://www.itweb.co.za/content/DZQ58vV8P43MzXy2

(Global) Amplifying the Internet Governance Forum: Will the New IGF Leadership Panel Make the Difference?

(Global) Human rights should be at the heart of tech governance

INTERNET FREEDOM

Digital rights activists in Southeast Asia increasingly at risk
Rebecca L. Root – Devex: 6 September 2022

Online censorship, digital surveillance and harassment have become the daily norm for many young human-rights defenders and activists in Southeast Asia. Those who speak up online are increasingly facing the digital — as well as physical — threats that come with activism, experts say.


For more on this theme:
(China) China’s internet censors have a blindspot: Cantonese
https://qz.com/china-censors-stumped-by-cantonese-1849496778

(South Africa) New ‘internet censorship’ regulations for South Africa

(China) China’s state media urged not to stray from party line, dumb down ideology

CYBER STATECRAFT AND STRATEGY

Data Governance, Asian Alternatives: How India and Korea Are Creating New Models and Policies
Evan A. Feigenbaum, Michael R. Nelson – Carnegie: 31 August 2022

Many observers posit that a stark contest between democracy and autocracy will shape the governance of technology and data. But two Asian democracies, India and South Korea, are carving out data policies distinct from Western or Chinese models.


For more on this theme:

(EU) The EU Data Strategy: Part 1 — A Complex Attempt to Unlock Data

(EU) The EU Data Strategy: Part 2 — Data Sharing in a Harmonized Playing Field

(Global) Should governments buy into blockchain-enabled infrastructure?

CYBER ATTACKS, THREATS AND VULNERABILITIES

Albania cuts Iran ties over cyberattack, U.S. vows further action
Reuters: 7 September 2022

Albania severed diplomatic relations with Iran and kicked out its diplomats after a cyberattack in July that it blamed on the Islamic Republic, a move the U.S. supported as it vowed to respond to the attack on its NATO ally.


For more on this theme:

(U.S.) Hackers infiltrate second-largest US school district in growing trend
https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2022/sep/06/los-angeles-unified-school-district-cyber-attack

(Montenegro) Montenegro Sent Back to Analog by Unprecedented Cyber Attacks

(Japan) Japan Government Websites Hit By Cyber-Attacks, Killnet Suspected

(U.K.) Major UK transport company Go-Ahead battles cyber-attack
https://www.theguardian.com/business/2022/sep/06/go-ahead-cyberattack-bus-services-thameslink-rail
CYBERCRIME

Five things South Africa must do to combat cybercrime
Basie von Solms – The Conversation: 5 September 2022

Cyberattacks are on the rise globally, with seriously negative implications for countries’ strategic, national, economic and social well-being.


For more on this theme:
(Russia) Russian-speaking cyber criminals feel economic pinch

(India) How a 2019 portal is now helping Mumbai Police solve cyber crime cases

(Ukraine) Google says former Conti ransomware members now attack Ukraine

CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION

Election Officials Have Been Largely Successful in Deterring Cyber Threats, CISA Official Says
Edward Graham – Nextgov: 2 September 2022

The head of the U.S. Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency’s National Risk Management Center pointed to public-private partnerships and enhanced resource sharing activities as key to defending against outside threats to voting systems.


For more on this theme:
(Australia) How the space industry can ensure a secure state for critical infrastructure

(India) Building Cyber Resilience in Critical Infrastructure

(U.S.) Mounting cyberattacks against U.S. critical infrastructure necessitated improved cyber efforts

(Global) Critical infrastructure cyberattacks: What are the implications of their increasing prevalence?
https://betanews.com/2022/09/05/critical-infrastructure-cyberattacks-2/
PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

ISIS AND FOREIGN FIGHTERS

Afghanistan: ISIS Group Targets Religious Minorities
Human Rights Watch: 6 September 2022
The Islamic State group’s Afghanistan affiliate has repeatedly attacked Hazaras and other religious minorities at mosques, schools and workplaces. The Taliban authorities have done little to protect these communities or to provide medical care and other assistance to victims.
https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/09/06/afghanistan-isis-group-targets-religious-minorities

Terror groups may turn to NFTs to raise funds and spread messages: WSJ
Stephen Katte – Cointelegraph: 5 September 2022
The first known case of a nonfungible token created and shared by a “terrorist sympathizer” has come to light, raising concerns that the blockchain tech could help spread terrorist messages and propaganda.

For more on this theme:
Syria: Abandoned by their countries, children of Islamic State women educated in prison

Senior Clerics Caught In The Crossfire Of The Taliban’s Intensifying War With IS-K

Why was the Islamic State so militarily effective? — book review
https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/isis-threat/article-716112

Statement regarding Syrian Democratic Forces conducting security operations in al-Hol camp

Islamic State Jihadists Seize Talataye in Northern Mali
https://www.thedefensepost.com/2022/09/07/islamic-state-mali-talataye/

US: Dozens of Islamic State fighters arrested in Syria camp
https://apnews.com/article/islamic-state-group-middle-east-syria-arrests-government-and-politics-2c7d48abf5e8bc0591f4d2b8b2e8e6b4

Nigeria ranks second most terrorised country by the Islamic State terrorists
TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

Five Trends Driving the Future of Terrorism
Colin P. Clarke – Foreign Policy Research Institute: 2 September 2022

Terrorism has been made more accessible by new technologies. The trends shaping the future of violent extremism can be described as “diversity, decentralization, democratization, disinformation and deadly.”


Former Head Of Rebel Islamist Organization Al-Shabaab Appointed Religion Minister In Somalia
Carlotta Murrin – The Organization for World Peace: 5 September 2022

Somalian Prime Minister Hamza Abdi Barre has named former co-founder of the extremist Islamic organization al-Shabaab, Mukhtar Robow, as a member of his cabinet. Robow was appointed Minister of Religion in hopes that his position will encourage al-Shabaab members to disarm and recognize the government.


For more on this theme:

Taliban’s atrocities continue, shopkeepers warned not to sell goods to women without hijab

After A Year of Taliban Rule, Afghanistan is a Story of Economic Disaster and Increased Security Threats
https://eeradicalization.com/after-a-year-of-taliban-rule-afghanistan/

Belquis Ahmadi on Afghanistan a Year After the Taliban Takeover

The Handbook of Terrorism Prevention and Preparedness: An Interview with Alex P. Schmid

Extremist Violence in Benin and Togo — A Six Month Outlook

UN Seeks to Protect Critical Infrastructures Against Terrorist Attacks

UN Report Details Taliban Abuses in Afghanistan
AL-QAIDA

Did Afghanistan Harbor al-Qaida Terrorist Ayman al-Zawahiri?
Jarrod Sadulski – American Military University Edge: 6 September 2022

U.S. National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan recently said: “We do believe that senior members of the Haqqani network, which is associated with the Taliban, knew that Zawahiri was in Kabul.”

For more on this theme:
EER Webinar: The Future of Al-Qaeda After Ayman al-Zawahiri’s Death

Al-Qaeda Still Potent

Al-Qaeda Use of Intelligence Tactics, Techniques and Procedures (TTP) of nation-states

CONFLICT AND CRIME

Russia using filtration centers to interrogate, abuse Ukrainians: WH
Press Trust of India: 8 September 2022

U.S. intelligence shows that Russia is using filtration centers to detain, interrogate and, in some cases, abuse thousands of Ukrainians, a senior White House official said.

For more on this theme:
Ukrainian refugees forcibly transferred, mistreated in Russia: HRW

Body of British aid worker captured by Russian proxies shows ‘signs of torture’

There can be no compromise between Russian genocide and Ukrainian freedom

VOA Exclusive: Ukrainians Forcibly Transferred to Russia ‘Had No Choice’
https://www.voanews.com/a/voa-exclusive-ukrainians-forcibly-transferred-to-russia-had-no-choice-/6727549.html

Q&A: Military Psychology and Russian Atrocities in Ukraine

Organized crime and instability dynamics: Mapping illicit hubs in West Africa
https://globalinitiative.net/analysis/west-africa-illicit-hub-mapping/
RUSSIA/UKRAINE

Russia may not survive Putin’s disastrous decision to invade Ukraine
Janusz Bugajski – Atlantic Council: 8 September 2022

Russia’s war in Ukraine has demonstrated that the Kremlin does not respect the fundamentals of international law or the sanctity of international borders. This imperialistic foreign policy may soon rebound on Moscow. Russia’s territorial integrity looks to become increasingly disputed by the country’s numerous internal republics and regions.

For more on this theme:
Central Asia’s New Foreign Fighters Problem: The Russia-Ukraine War

Understanding Russia’s Efforts at Technological Sovereignty
https://www.fpri.org/article/2022/09/understanding-russias-efforts-at-technological-sovereignty/

How Russia Can Pay for its Use of the Wagner Group in Ukraine
https://smallwarsjournal.com/jrnl/art/how-russia-can-pay-its-use-wagner-group-ukraine

NATO’s Defence and Security Sector Reform Challenges in Ukraine

Putin’s failure to learn from history has led to Russian quagmire in Ukraine

Finland’s NATO accession

Corporate Response to the War in Ukraine: Stakeholder Governance or Stakeholder Pressure?

India and China soften Russia’s oil sanctions pain

Who will buy Russia’s gas?

The Ukraine war and Russia’s disinformation campaign in the Middle East
https://english.alaraby.co.uk/analysis/russias-disinformation-campaign-middle-east

Russian Cyberwarfare: Unpacking the Kremlin’s Capabilities
https://cepa.org/russian-cyberwarfare-unpacking-the-kremlins-capabilities/

Muzzling the Watchdogs: Russia’s Media Crackdown
https://cepa.org/muzzling-the-watchdogs-russias-media-crackdown/

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For more on this theme:

Ukraine Is Winning
https://cepa.org/ukraine-is-winning/

Germany’s War-Induced Energiewende — a Crisis With Benefits
https://cepa.org/germanys-war-induced-energiewende-a-crisis-with-benefits/

Russia’s Multiplying War Problems
https://cepa.org/russias-multiplying-war-problems/

Might Putin Annex Belarus?
https://cepa.org/might-putin-annex-belarus/

Putin Is In Trouble in Ukraine: Russia Facing Weapons Shortage By End Of Year

Is Putin’s War Pushing World Toward Nuclear Energy?

Russia’s Stranglehold On The World’s Nuclear Power Cycle
https://www.rferl.org/a/russia-nuclear-power-industry-graphics/32014247.html

Iran Is Not The Answer To Europe’s Energy Crisis – Analysis

Ukraine War: Attrition Looms In Battle Of Kherson – Analysis

How Ukraine’s War of Attrition is ‘Degrading’ Russia’s Army
https://www.newsweek.com/russia-ukraine-war-attrition-1740299

Lessons For The West: Russia’s Military Failures In Ukraine – Analysis

Soldiers Face Mental Health Battle In Russia’s War On Ukraine

The most dangerous days of Russia’s war in Ukraine lie ahead

Hacks tied to Russia and Ukraine war have had minor impact, researchers say
https://therecord.media/hacks-tied-to-russia-and-ukraine-war-have-had-minor-impact-researchers-say/

Russia Is Running Out Of Missiles. That’s Bad News for Ukraine
https://www.thedefensepost.com/2022/09/01/russia-missiles-running-out/

A Fresh Look at Russian Public Opinion on the War in Ukraine
RUSSIA/UKRAINE

For more on this theme:

Africa’s Ukraine Dilemma

Russian Invasion of Ukraine Will be ‘Longer War’, Says Denmark’s Defense Minister

Russia has yet to achieve any of its strategic objectives in Ukraine: UK statement to the OSCE

Ukraine war: international tourism hit as Russian travellers disappear
https://theconversation.com/ukraine-war-international-tourism-hit-as-russian-travellers-disappear-187121

Russian Soldier Convicted for Refusing to Fight in Ukraine

Rigged Russian referendums: Putin’s plan to annex occupied Ukraine

Russia’s self-defeating invasion: Why Vladimir Putin has lost Ukraine forever

Ukraine war: Russia postpones ‘referendum’ in occupied region

Ukraine: Russia wants to wreck IAEA mission with fresh shelling

Russia-Ukraine war could grind on for years
https://asiatimes.com/2022/09/russia-ukraine-war-could-grind-on-for-years/

Ukraine Exploiting Russia’s Poor Leadership With ‘Broad Front’ Counter — U.K.

Meet the Chechen battalion joining Ukraine to fight Russia — and fellow Chechens
https://www.npr.org/2022/09/05/1119703328/chechens-ukraine-russia

Ukraine’s largest telecom stands against Russian cyberattacks

Belarus Finds Itself as Accomplice in Russia’s War Against Ukraine
RUSSIA/UKRAINE

For more on this theme:

Russia and Ukraine are caught in a mutually desperate stalemate

European Unity Can Endure the Winter of Discontent
https://carnegieeurope.eu/strategiceurope/87867

How much has the Ukraine war changed Germany?

The most dangerous days of Russia’s war in Ukraine lie ahead

Suspicious bind: Iran’s relationship with Russia

Putin’s Choices in Ukraine: Retreat, Attrition or Escalation
https://jamestown.org/program/putins-choices-in-ukraine-retreat-attrition-or-escalation/

Moscow’s Attacks on Western Analysts Backfire Again
https://jamestown.org/program/moscows-attacks-on-western-analysts-backfire-again/