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COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

Malaysia, Qatar enhance scientific cooperation in fight against corruption
Bernama: 12 September 2022
Malaysia and Qatar will enhance transparency and integrity in the private sectors of both countries.
https://www.theedgemarkets.com/article/malaysia-qatar-enhance-scientific-cooperation-fight-against-corruption

The strange case of a missing Bentley and sinking corruption in Pakistan
Syed Fazl-e-Haider – The Interpreter: 7 September 2022
As the country struggles with the aftermath of devastating floods, an alleged international heist adds to local anger.
https://www.lowyinstitute.org/the-interpreter/strange-case-missing-bentley-sinking-corruption-pakistan

For more on this theme:
China’s top anti-corruption official sacked after being found guilty of corruption
https://www.independent.co.uk/asia/china/china-anti-corruption-liu-yanping-b2157543.html

Wife of former Malaysian PM found guilty of corruption

Ramaphosa’s new anti-corruption council ‘a step in the right direction’
https://www.biznews.com/leadership/2022/09/01/new-ramaphosa-anti-corruption

Ghana urged to invest in Artificial Intelligence as solution to corruption

Corruption trounces inflation as top economic risk for Philippines, CEO poll shows

Belgium made no gains against political corruption this year

Venezuela to seek extradition of former minister in corruption case

Corruption hits SME growth: study
https://www.newagebd.net/article/181026/corruption-hits-sme-growth-study
DRUG TRAFFICKING

Meth, Fentanyl, Ecstasy: Synthetic Drugs Flourish in Latin America
Alessandro Ford – InSight Crime: 12 September 2022
Synthetic drugs are increasingly rewriting the rules of Latin America’s drug trade as new markets, routes and substances challenge the traditional dominance of plant-based narcotics.

Can Uruguay Adapt to Its New Role in International Drug Trade?
Chris Dalby – InSight Crime: 15 September 2022
With seizures coming thick and fast, Uruguay is having to rapidly reassess its position. But before coming up with the right solutions, authorities need to be asking the right questions.

For more on this theme:
Syria seizes hummus bowls made out of crushed Captagon pills

CBP on Front Line of Opioid Crisis as Fentanyl Seizures Surge

Narcotic sales on rise in Syria

Drug trafficking thrives on dark web
https://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/nation/2022/09/113_335960.html

A Cartel Bodyguard in Mexico’s ‘Hot Land’
https://insightcrime.org/investigations/cartel-bodyguard-mexico-hot-land/

Is Brazil’s PCC Trying to Take Over Paraguay’s Marijuana Business?

Mexico Extradites Alleged Member of Arellano Félix Cartel to the U.S.

Strong ties with ASEAN neighbors needed vs drug trafficking, cybercrime

The Lawfare Podcast: Rupert Stone on the Booming Afghan Drug Trade

Britain’s Child Drug Dealers Are Exploited, Traumatised and Neglected
https://www.vice.com/en/article/xgyv8a/countylinesdrugsreport
HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Legitimate Businesses Used as Fronts for Human Trafficking in Argentina
Alicia Florez – InSight Crime: 15 September 2022

Argentina continues to struggle with a human-trafficking crisis as domestic and international criminal networks use a range of legal businesses to hide their activities and elude authorities.

For more on this theme:
Malaysia and its Efforts to Curb Human Trafficking

Russia’s war on Ukraine has increased human trafficking across the war-torn region, humanitarians say

Taiwan Grapples with Human Trafficking Spike

Human Trafficking: U.S. Agencies’ International Efforts to Fight a Global Problem

Asia’s Human Traffickers Target New Victims

China-backed controversial mega project in Myanmar rapidly becoming human trafficking hub

What is the relation between Cambodia’s human trafficking scam and China’s Belt and Road Initiatives?

Colombian Criminal Groups Linked to Trafficking of Venezuelans
https://dialogo-americas.com/articles/colombian-criminal-groups-linked-to-trafficking-of-venezuelans/

Raids on black market cannabis farms uncover human trafficking victims

Cambodia: Human trafficking crisis driven by cyberscams

ASEAN Urged to Intervene Over Human Trafficking
TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

Illegal logging and trade in fine wood threaten Wampis communities in the Peruvian Amazon

Enrique Vera – Mongabay: 9 September 2022

More than 20,000 board feet of protected forest species, such as cedar and mahogany, are being lost monthly from forests inhabited by Wampis communities, according to estimates by community leaders.


Illegal logging in Africa and its security implications

Africa Center for Strategic Studies: 8 September 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:

All hands on deck: The involvement of indigenous people and local communities in Central African rainforests strengthens the fight against the illegal timber trade


Illegal mining scourge is tearing through Africa and governments are powerless to respond


ADF tackles illegal fishing with Operation SOLANIA


Illegal Fishing in Latin America — Experts Consider Answers to Tough Questions at Event


African Courts Need to Take the Lead in Trying Traffickers

https://intpolicydigest.org/african-courts-need-to-take-the-lead-in-trying-traffickers/

Can Two New Bills Reshape Indigenous Rights and Illegal Gold Mining in Suriname?


India-Myanmar border: Narco corridor to hotspot for smugglers of exotic species

PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

INTERNET GOVERNANCE

The Rocky Road to Cyber Norms at the United Nations
Louise Marie Hurel – Council on Foreign Relations: 6 September 2022

The U.N. cybersecurity working group has faced several challenges throughout its existence. To achieve meaningful progress on cyber norms, members must navigate major political crises and discontent.

https://www.cfr.org/blog/rocky-road-cyber-norms-united-nations-0

For more on this theme:

https://www.lawfareblog.com/platforms-are-testing-self-regulation-new-zealand-it-needs-lot-work

(Global) How Web3 Companies Are Changing The Internet
https://www.forbes.com/sites/theyec/2022/09/01/how-web3-companies-are-changing-the-internet/?sh=3b9dcb9f57ae

(Russia, U.S., Global) ‘Future of cyberspace’ on the line as US, Russia square off

INTERNET FREEDOM

This Clever Anti-Censorship Tool Lets Russians Read Blocked News
Matt Burgess – Wired: 8 September 2022

Samizdat Online syndicates banned news sites by hosting them on uncensored domains — allowing people to access independent reporting.

https://www.wired.com/story/russia-internet-censorship-samizdat-online/

For more on this theme:

(Uzbekistan) Is internet content still restricted in Uzbekistan?
https://www.eureporter.co/world/uzbekistan/2022/09/01/is-internet-content-still-restricted-in-uzbekistan/

(India) Digital India Needs Internet, not Internet Shutdowns

(EU) How Council of Europe guidelines on managing the impact of digital technologies on freedom of expression complement the DSA
CYBER ATTACKS, THREATS AND VULNERABILITIES

New Cyber-Attacks on Albania Cause Border Chaos
Fjori Sinoruka and Vladimir Karaj – Balkan Insight: 12 September 2022

After blaming Iran for July’s massive cyberattack on government servers, fresh attacks have targeted the Traveler Information Management System.


For more on this theme:
(Global) IHG booking systems disrupted in cyberattack

(U.S.) Cyberattack on Long Island Disrupts Government Agencies

(U.K.) Major UK bus operator hit by cyber attack

CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING

Kosovo to Establish Agency for Cyber Security Amid Recent Attacks
Emirjeta Vllahiu – Balkan Insight: 14 September 2022

A cyberattack on Kosovo Telecom is the latest one on Kosovo institutions and in the region in general.


For more on this theme:
(Australia) Youth to Get Great Access to Digital Tech in NSW
https://opengovasia.com/nsw-youth-to-get-great-access-to-digital-tech/

(Africa) Digital humanitarianism in Africa: hope or hype?
https://issafrika.org/ss-today/digital-humanitarianism-in-africa-hope-or-hype

(The Netherlands) Dutch cyber security organisations to join forces
CYBERCRIME

Cybercrime after COVID-19
Paul Cawthon – TechTarget: 13 September 2022

The pandemic affected many aspects of our lives. People had to create alternate methods for
work, school and accessing services. However, cybercriminals doubled their efforts to exploit the
situation.

https://www.datasciencecentral.com/cybercrime-after-covid-19/

For more on this theme:
(China, India) Chinese-linked cyber crims nab $529 million from Indian nationals
https://www.theregister.com/2022/09/13/chinese_cybercrime_hits_india/

(Global) If Cybercrime was a Country, it Would be the Third Largest Economy: Report
https://www.analyticsinsight.net/if-cybercrime-was-a-country-it-would-be-the-third-largest-economy/

(Global) The Scammers’ Playbook: How Cybercriminals Get Ahold of Your Data

CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION

Increased Mortality Rates Linked to Cyber-Attacks Against Healthcare Organizations
Alessandro Mascellino – InfoSecurity: 11 September 2022

Cyberattacks against health care organizations cause more than 20% to experience increased
mortality rates, suggests research by Proofpoint’s Ponemon Institute.


For more on this theme:
(U.S.) Can the government prevent a grid shutdown from a quantum cyber attack?
https://federalnewsnetwork.com/cybersecurity/2022/09/can-the-government-prevent-a-grid-shutdown-
from-a-quantum-cyber-attack/

(U.S., Iran) U.S. indicts Iranian hackers for attacks on critical infrastructure

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PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

ISIS AND FOREIGN FIGHTERS

Crowdfunding the ‘Islamic State’ group
Cathrin Schaer – Deutsche Welle: 10 September 2022
Supporters of the Islamic State group have helped families of former members trapped in a camp in Syria by raising money for groceries. But they also want funds to smuggle young men out of the camp.

CENTCOM chief believes Syria is ‘breeding ground’ for next generation of ISIS
Peter Aitken – Fox News: 11 September 2022
Gen. Michael “Erik” Kurilla is raising awareness of a growing security threat in Syria at a time when the country has seen increased activity from belligerents.
https://www.foxnews.com/world/centcom-chief-believes-syria-breeding-ground-generation-isis

For more on this theme:

Several Mozambicans Beheaded, Italian Nun Shot Dead in ISIS Attack

ISIS Core Rebuilding, Poised to Grow Globally Through 2021

The State of al Qaeda and ISIS Around the World

Researcher in terrorism issues warns: ISIS may “destroy walls” if international neglect continues

European rights court directs France to reconsider return of families of Daesh/ISIS fighters

ISIS Rises from the Dust in the Syrian Desert

Intelligence agencies warn of Islamic State’s threat ahead of Gujarat polls
TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

More than two decades on from 9/11, the threat posed by jihadist terrorism is greater than ever
Charles Lister – Middle East Institute: 9 September 2022

As the world marked the 21-year anniversary of the September 11 attacks, public perceptions and policy attention on the threat posed by terrorism are arguably at an all-time low.

How Taliban Instability Is A Risk To Central Asia – Analysis
Luke Coffey – Arab News: 10 September 2022

More than a year after taking power, the Taliban are beginning to realize that fighting is far easier than governing. As winter approaches and Afghanistan faces a humanitarian crisis, the government has failed to gain international recognition and foreign aid has been reduced to a trickle.
https://www.eurasiareview.com/10092022-how-taliban-instability-is-a-risk-to-central-asia-analysis/

For more on this theme:
Somalia Back To Clan Militias To Shatter Shabaab Military Backbone

Africa is a Central Theater of Global Terrorism

Industries can prosper in conflict-affected Lake Chad Basin
https://issafrica.org/iss-today/industries-can-prosper-in-conflict-affected-lake-chad-basin

The many roots of Mozambique’s deadly insurgency
https://issafrica.org/iss-today/the-many-roots-of-mozambiques-deadly-insurgency

Essential Geopolitics: Monitoring Al Shabaab

Taliban decisions reflect internal disagreement
https://www.eastasiaforum.org/2022/09/03/taliban-decisions-reflect-internal-disagreement/

Taliban Claim Media Reform as Journalists Decry Censorship

Dysfunctional centralization and growing fragility under Taliban rule
https://www.mei.edu/publications/dysfunctional-centralization-and-growing-fragility-under-taliban-rule

“Carpet weaving” east of the Euphrates: Iranian proxy groups expand their influence in Syria’s Hasakah Province
https://www.mei.edu/publications/carpet-weaving-east-euphrates-iranian-proxy-groups-expand-their-influence-syras
PRISON-BASED RADICALIZATION

Prison-Based Radicalization to Militant Jihadism in the Maldives
An overarching emir leads all the militant jihadists in the Maafushi Prison, and each prison unit also has its own emir.

The many roots of Mozambique’s deadly insurgency
Liesl Louw-Vaudran – Institute for Security Studies: 8 September 2022
Field research in Cabo Delgado sheds light on one of Africa’s least understood conflicts.
https://issafrica.org/iss-today/the-many-roots-of-mozambiques-deadly-insurgency

For more on this theme:
Designation and Moderation of Online Terrorist Content
https://eeradicalization.com/designation-and-moderation-of-online-terrorist-content/
The Bali bombmaker says he is deradicalised. Should you believe him?
https://www.afr.com/world/asia/the-bali-bombmaker-says-he-is-deradicalised-should-we-believe-him-20220904-p5bf9s
The Handbook of Terrorism Prevention and Preparedness: An Interview with Alex P. Schmid
Supporting Extremist Disengagement in Belgium: Key Actors, Guiding Principles, and Main Challenges
An Education: Islamic Universities in Russia
https://cepa.org/an-education-islamic-universities-in-russia/
Victims of violent extremism play essential role in counter-terrorism efforts and need support, Lopatka says at UN
DHS chief warns of “emerging threat of the domestic violent extremist”
‘Schooling’ isn’t enough: The urgency of quality education for children forcibly on the move in the Sahel
AL-QAIDA

Amid Yemen's Truce, al Qaeda Threatens to Return
Katherine Zimmerman and Brian Carter – Critical Threats: 9 September 2022

Tempered optimism persists over peace in Yemen after nearly eight years of war. A U.N.-negotiated truce has largely held since April between the Houthis, who seized power in September 2014, and the internationally recognized Yemeni government, backed by a Saudi-led coalition.

https://www.criticalthreats.org/analysis/amid-yemens-truce-al-qaeda-threatens-to-return

For more on this theme:
Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent: An Appraisal of the Threat in the Wake of the Taliban Takeover of Afghanistan

Al-Qaeda Releases Book Detailing How it Carried Out 9/11 Attacks

2 decades later, 9/11 self-professed mastermind awaits trial

CONFLICT AND CRIME

Russia's war of aggression in Ukraine demands special international tribunal
Olena Khomenko – Atlantic Council: 9 September 2022

What did we do to stop Russian war crimes in Ukraine? This question inevitably comes to mind for anyone who visits the sites of recent Russian atrocities in places like Bucha and Irpin outside Kyiv.


For more on this theme:
There can be no compromise between Russian genocide and Ukrainian freedom

Russia is preventing access to Ukraine war prisoners, U.N. says

Russia: 'Filtration' of Ukrainian civilians a 'shocking violation' of people forced to flee war

Ukraine Symposium – Deception and the Law of Armed Conflict
https://lieber.westpoint.edu/deception-law-of-armed-conflict/
RUSSIA/UKRAINE

The complex reality behind Vladimir Putin’s nuclear blackmail in Ukraine
Suriya Jayanti – Atlantic Council: 14 September 2022

The battle of narratives over the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant, which Russian troops have held since March, is a microcosm of each country’s broader strategy: Russia uses fear and energy to coerce, while Ukraine uses anything it can to call for more support.


For more on this theme:
Russia Eyes Sudanese Gold To Fund War
https://dialogo-americas.com/articles/russia-eyes-sudanese-gold-to-fund-war/

Amid Ukraine War, Armenia and Azerbaijan Fighting Risks Broader Conflict

Ukraine’s coming winter of decision

Ukraine war: gradually, then suddenly
https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/ukraine-war-gradually-then-suddenly/

Ukraine Writes the Textbook on Twenty-First Century Warfare, Conducts Masterclass

Vostok 2022: Has Russia Learned From Setbacks in Ukraine?

Putin Has Unsheathed His Energy Weapon Too Early — and Too Late
https://jamestown.org/program/putin-has-unsheathed-his-energy-weapon-too-early-and-too-late/

Putin’s self-defeating invasion turns southern Ukrainians away from Russia

Ukrainian victory shatters Russia’s reputation as a military superpower

Russia may not survive Putin’s disastrous decision to invade Ukraine

Time to Confront Russia’s Nuclear Recklessness in Ukraine
RUSSIA/UKRAINE

For more on this theme:

Russia’s Military — Losing the Will to Fight
https://cepa.org/russias-military-losing-the-will-to-fight/

The War of Putin’s Defeat
https://cepa.org/the-war-of-putins-defeat/

Kharkiv Offensive Shows Ukraine Is Winning
https://cepa.org/kharkiv-offensive-shows-ukraine-is-winning/

For Russia, Nuclear Plants Are Nuclear Bombs
https://cepa.org/for-russia-nuclear-plants-are-nuclear-bombs/

Kremlin Must Placate Its Supporters Amid Outrage Over Kharkiv Retreat
https://carnegieendowment.org/politika/87900

My Country, Right or Wrong: Russian Public Opinion on Ukraine
https://carnegieendowment.org/2022/09/07/my-country-right-or-wrong-russian-public-opinion-on-ukraine-pub-87803

The Paradox of the Russia-China Relationship

Why Is Russia Jeopardizing the Ukraine Grain Deal?
https://carnegieendowment.org/politika/87930

Russia’s War in Ukraine: A Turning Point?
https://carnegieeurope.eu/strategiceurope/87899

Ukraine’s Oligarchs Are a Dying Breed. The Country Will Never Be the Same
https://carnegieendowment.org/politika/87914

The Hypnotist in the Kremlin

Why Ukraine Will Win
https://www.journalofdemocracy.org/why-ukraine-will-win/

Russia plays up China’s support as it retreats in Ukraine

Azerbaijan has used Russia’s weakness in Ukraine, expert says

Ukraine is fighting both a physical and cyber war against Russia
https://www.npr.org/2022/09/10/1122234717/ukraine-is-fighting-both-a-physical-and-cyber-war-against-russia

Rebuilding Ukraine after Russian invasion may cost $350 bln, experts say
RUSSIA/UKRAINE

For more on this theme:

Russia's reliance on Wagner Group in Ukraine is wearing down Putin's favorite mercenary group, the British military says

Why the Russian Military Brutalizes Ukraine

Russian Troops Are Dashing Around Ukraine Trying To Block Ukrainian Counterattacks

How Ukraine broke the stalemate with Russia

Is Russia losing the war in Ukraine?
[https://www.aljazeera.com/program/inside-story/2022/9/12/is-russia-losing-the-war-in](https://www.aljazeera.com/program/inside-story/2022/9/12/is-russia-losing-the-war-in)

Kremlin Shielding Putin From Ukraine

Russia-Ukraine Crisis: Its Impact And Implications For Southern Africa

Analysis: Why are Armenia and Azerbaijan fighting again, and why does it matter?

Google: Former Russian Hacker Group Members Target Ukraine

Don't Mention The War? In Russian Regional Voting, Glimpses Of A Closing Society
[https://www.rferl.org/a/russia-regional-vote-analysis-ukraine-war/32023828.html](https://www.rferl.org/a/russia-regional-vote-analysis-ukraine-war/32023828.html)

Russian Sanctions, The Hungarian Veto, And The Long Road Ahead – Analysis

Russia-Ukraine conflict shows famines aren't far. War and hunger go hand-in-hand

How The West Can Help Ukraine Capitalize On The Kherson Counteroffensive
RUSSIA/UKRAINE

For more on this theme:

The War In Ukraine: Escalation And Its Potential Global Consequences

Ukraine: Counteroffensive Raising Expectations, But Will The West Step Up With Greater Aid?

Spy Scandal In Albania: Could Russian Intelligence Be Using Bloggers?

Putin’s War In Ukraine About Ideology Not Territory — OpEd

Moscow Exploiting Fear of NATO to Increase Russian Support for War
https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/moscow-exploiting-fear-nato-increase-russian-support-war-204648