

THE MARSHALL CENTER

transnational weekly



A CURRENT AWARENESS SERVICE FROM THE MARSHALL CENTER

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COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

Lack of food, not money, drives poaching in East African national parks

Aaron Wagner – Pennsylvania State University: 25 September 2024

Researchers from Pennsylvania State University in the United States surveyed 267 households in villages bordering Tanzania's Mkomazi National Park and found that lack of food is the primary driver of poaching and other illegal activities in the park.

<https://phys.org/news/2024-09-lack-food-money-poaching-east.html>

For more on this theme:

After years of civil war, South Sudan turns its focus to wildlife conservation

<https://www.france24.com/en/tv-shows/focus/20240907-after-years-of-civil-war-south-sudan-turns-its-focus-to-wildlife-conservation>

Cracking Down on Wildlife Crime: Zambia hosts First-Ever CITES Training to Curb Demand for Illegal Wildlife Products in Africa

<https://cites.org/eng/news/cracking-down-on-wildlife-crime-zambia-hosts-first-ever-cites-training-to-curb-demand-for-illegal-wildlife-products-in-africa-2024>

The slowest of trailblazers: Better DNA testing means trafficked turtles can go home

<https://www.npr.org/2024/09/24/nx-s1-5120590/turtle-trafficked-return-wild-dna>

Nigeria Declares War On Wildlife Trafficking, Unveils Enforcement Task Force

<https://thewhistler.ng/nigeria-declares-war-on-wildlife-trafficking-unveils-enforcement-task-force/>

CYBER FRAUD

Myanmar junta raids Shan state online scam center, detains hundreds

Radio Free Asia: 25 September 2024

Junta authorities arrested nearly 750 people, including more than 240 Chinese nationals, in a raid on an online scam operation near the country's border with China. Beijing has been pressing authorities in Myanmar for the past year to crack down on online fraud gangs.

<https://www.rfa.org/english/news/myanmar/scam-center-shan-state-raid-muse-china-09252024062000.html>

For more on this theme:

Hong Kong banks are 'better-than-expected' at owning up to beat cyber fraud, survey finds

<https://www.msn.com/en-xl/money/other/hong-kong-banks-are-better-than-expected-at-owning-up-to-beat-cyber-fraud-survey-finds/ar-AA1qRRCN>

'Pig butchering' fraud: the link between modern slavery, torture and online crime

<https://theconversation.com/pig-butchering-fraud-the-link-between-modern-slavery-torture-and-online-crime-238135>

How Apple and Microsoft's trusted brands are being used to scam you online

<https://www.cNBC.com/2024/09/25/how-apple-and-microsofts-trusted-brands-are-being-used-to-scam-you.html>

Victims lose \$70K to one single wallet-draining app on Google's Play Store

https://www.theregister.com/2024/09/26/victims_lose_70k_to_play/

DRUG TRAFFICKING

Afghanistan's Role in Fuelling Smuggling and Drug Trafficking

Hamza Khan – Modern Diplomacy: 22 September 2024

Since the Taliban regained control of Afghanistan in August 2021, concerns have escalated about the group's involvement in illicit activities.

<https://moderndiplomacy.eu/2024/09/22/afghanistans-role-in-fuelling-smuggling-and-drug-trafficking/>

For more on this theme:

Mexican cartel leader's son convicted of violent role in drug trafficking plot

<https://apnews.com/article/ruben-oseguera-cartel-menchito-jalisco-new-generation-5130657a0a8859497dc3bccfb73d16ef>

U.S. sanctions Mexican businesses, Colombian nationals for 'significant' drug trafficking network

https://www.upi.com/Top_News/US/2024/09/24/Mexico-Columbia-Clan-Del-Golfo-Sinaloa-drug-cartel-sanctions-fentanyl-Wally-Adeyemo-Treasury/4381727193637/

'War is looming': Sinaloa cartel strife unleashes deadly violence in Mexico

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/americas/-war-is-looming-sinaloa-cartel-strife-unleashes-deadly-violence-in-mexico/3335730>

ORGANIZED CRIME AROUND THE WORLD

The EU judicial cooperation agency is stepping up its fight against organized crime

The Associated Press: 25 September 2024

The European Union's judicial cooperation agency, Eurojust, launched a new network to strengthen and further coordinate the continent's fight against organized crime.

<https://apnews.com/article/eurojust-drug-trafficking-crime-organized-8fd58af3f2a4725d5950d0acedee08f4>

For more on this theme:

Saudi Arabia, Egypt Coordinate to Confront Terrorism, Cross-Border Organized Crime

<https://english.aawsat.com/gulf/5059009-saudi-arabia-egypt-coordinate-confront-terrorism-cross-border-organized-crime>

What is the Tren de Aragua gang, linked to several crimes in US?

<https://www.newsnationnow.com/us-news/immigration/border-coverage/what-is-tren-de-aragua-gang/>

Durán: A Window into Ecuador's Organized Crime Explosion

<https://insightcrime.org/investigations/duran-window-into-ecuadors-organized-crime-explosion/>

The Web of Illicit Economies Ensnaring Durán, Ecuador

<https://insightcrime.org/investigations/web-illicit-economies-ensnaring-duran-ecuador/>

Crime rates surge: Türkiye tops Europe in organized crime

<https://www.turkiyetoday.com/turkiye/crime-rates-surge-turkiye-tops-europe-in-organized-crime-57633/>

'Swedish' Organized Crime Spreading to Iceland

<https://europeanconservative.com/articles/news/swedish-organized-crime-spreading-to-iceland/>

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY CRIME AND COUNTERFEITING

Inside the Counterfeit Sneaker Industry: How Fake Kicks Are Taking Over the Market

BallerStatus: 20 September 2024

The manufacture and sale of counterfeit sneakers is so lucrative, and the problem so rampant – with even experts struggling to tell the difference between a genuine sneaker and a fake one – that it could shake the legitimacy of the sneaker resale market.

<https://www.ballerstatus.com/2024/09/20/inside-the-counterfeit-sneaker-industry-how-fake-kicks-are-taking-over-the-market/>

For more on this theme:

New Measures Against Counterfeit Drugs: Armenian Parliament Tightens Control Over Pharmacies

<https://bm.ge/en/news/new-measures-against-counterfeit-drugs-armenian-parliament-tightens-control-over-pharmacies>

Fighting IP Crime: A global responsibility

<https://www.interpol.int/News-and-Events/News/2024/Fighting-IP-Crime-A-global-responsibility>

Rising threat of counterfeit airbags leads to public safety announcement

<https://www.cbsnews.com/pittsburgh/news/put-the-brakes-on-fakes-counterfeit-airbags/>

Vets in Singapore warn against counterfeit pet supplements, medication sold online

<https://asianews.network/vets-in-singapore-warn-against-counterfeit-pet-supplements-medication-sold-online/>

CORRUPTION

Ecuador: Two journalists who revealed corruption and drug trafficking forced into exile

Gina Yauri – Global Voices: 24 September 2024

Ecuador has become dangerous for journalists investigating corruption cases at the highest levels of state power.

<https://globalvoices.org/2024/09/24/ecuador-two-journalists-who-revealed-corruption-and-drug-trafficking-forced-into-exile/>

For more on this theme:

How to strengthen anti-corruption frameworks: 4 actionable insights

<https://complyadvantage.com/insights/how-to-strengthen-anti-corruption-frameworks/>

Corruption Perceptions Index

<https://www.transparency.org/en/cpi/2023>

Kenya's whistleblowers are key to fighting corruption: how a new law could protect them

<https://theconversation.com/kenyas-whistleblowers-are-key-to-fighting-corruption-how-a-new-law-could-protect-them-239647>

Diplomatic failings and 'elite bargains' prolonging Libya turmoil: Analysts

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/9/20/diplomatic-failings-and-elite-bargains-prolonging-libyas-turmoil-analysts>

SPORTS CORRUPTION

Match-fixing in Chinese football rampant during Covid: 'there was no escaping it', player says

Lars Hamer – SCMP: 23 September 2024

A former Chinese Super League and China League 1 footballer has revealed how match-fixing, which led to 43 players being given a lifetime ban from the sport, worked during his time there..

<https://www.scmp.com/sport/china/article/3279425/match-fixing-chinese-football-rampant-during-covid-there-was-no-escaping-it-player-says>

For more on this theme:

Guardians of the game: How the ICC's outgoing anti-corruption officials battled to keep cricket clean

<https://www.thenationalnews.com/sport/cricket/2024/09/24/icc-cricket-corruption/>

Man City case 'moral reward' for Football Leaks hacker, lawyer claims

<https://www.bbc.com/sport/football/articles/c74852evz50o>

Exposing the Alleged Scandal in Indian Football: A Dark Chapter in the South Asian Football

<https://www.republicworld.com/sports/football/exposing-the-alleged-scandal-in-indian-football-a-dark-chapter-in-the-south-asian-football>

Blatter, Platini to be retried in fraud and corruption trial

<https://worldsoccertalk.com/news/blatter-platini-to-be-retried-in-fraud-and-corruption-trial/>

HUMAN TRAFFICKING, FORCED LABOR AND MIGRANT SMUGGLING

EU's Africa fund 'spread too thinly' to reduce migration

Anchal Vohra – Deutsche Welle: 25 September 2024

Auditors say the European Union's \$5.8 billion Africa fund is insufficient to address migration, adding that job creation is overstated and human rights risks are not properly addressed.

<https://www.dw.com/en/eu-auditors-say-africa-fund-spread-too-thinly-to-reduce-migration/a-70323528>

For more on this theme:

Turkmenistan Continues to Hide Forced Labor in Cotton Fields

<https://timesca.com/deliberate-concealment-of-forced-labor-in-turkmen-cotton-fieldsturkmen-law-enforcers-conceal-the-use-of-forced-labor-in-cotton-fields/>

Myanmar's new measure to address labor issue meets criticism

<https://www.rfa.org/english/news/myanmar/myanmar-labor-new-measure-09112024034850.html>

Remarks by Ambassador Battle – International Law Enforcement Academy Alumni – Trafficking in Persons Event

<https://tz.usembassy.gov/remarks-by-ambassador-battle-at-the-international-law-enforcement-academy-alumni-trafficking-in-persons-event/>

Human smuggling is on the rise. International collaboration is key to halting it.

<https://www.csmonitor.com/World/Americas/2024/0906/Human-smuggling-is-on-the-rise.-International-collaboration-is-key-to-halting-it>

PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

INTERNET GOVERNANCE AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE REGULATION

Balancing market innovation incentives and regulation in AI: Challenges and opportunities

Kevin A. Bryan and Florenta Teodoridis – Brookings: 24 September 2024

Regulating a new, fast-changing technology like artificial intelligence is very difficult, both in theory and practice, because developments are determined not only by regulation but also by market incentives.

<https://www.brookings.edu/articles/balancing-market-innovation-incentives-and-regulation-in-ai-challenges-and-opportunities/>

For more on this theme:

(Global) Navigating the Complex Landscape of AI Governance: Principles and Frameworks for Responsible Innovation

<https://natlawreview.com/article/navigating-complex-landscape-ai-governance-principles-and-frameworks-responsible>

(U.S.) The case for promoting the geographic and social diffusion of AI development

<https://www.brookings.edu/articles/the-case-for-promoting-the-geographic-and-social-diffusion-of-ai-development/>

(Global) A new institution for governing AI? Lessons from GPAI

<https://www.brookings.edu/articles/a-new-institution-for-governing-ai-lessons-from-gpai/>

INTERNET FREEDOM

Russia's Cyber Crackdown: Sovereignty, Surveillance, and Wartime Control

Aram Terzian – Modern Diplomacy: 20 September 2024

Moscow has increasingly leveraged technology as a tool of suppression, particularly as the country's political climate becomes more fragile.

<https://moderndiplomacy.eu/2024/09/20/russias-cyber-crackdown-sovereignty-surveillance-and-wartime-control/>

For more on this theme:

(Global) Internet surveillance firm Sandvine says it's leaving 56 'non-democratic' countries

<https://techcrunch.com/2024/09/20/internet-surveillance-firm-sandvine-says-its-leaving-56-non-democratic-countries/>

(Russia) Facebook owner Meta bans Russia state media outlets over 'foreign interference'

<https://apnews.com/article/meta-facebook-instagram-whatsapp-russia-92a22a9681119d7d8ce217f8429e3c3d>

(Pakistan) Pakistan's great firewall could scuttle struggling tech sector

<https://scroll.in/article/1073210/pakistans-great-firewall-could-scuttle-struggling-tech-sector>

(Malaysia) Digital detour danger

<https://thesun.my/style-life/digital-detour-danger-HB13030124>

CYBER CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Ukraine Bans Telegram Use for Government and Military Personnel

Ravie Lakshmanan – The Hacker News: 21 September 2024

Ukraine has restricted the use of the Telegram messaging app by government officials, military personnel and other defense and critical infrastructure workers, citing national security concerns.

<https://thehackernews.com/2024/09/ukraine-bans-telegram-use-for.html>

For more on this theme:

(Global) Strategies for safeguarding critical infrastructure data from cyberattacks

<https://www.securityinfowatch.com/critical-infrastructure/article/55140571/strategies-for-safeguarding-critical-infrastructure-data-from-cyberattacks>

(Global) Government and industry are indifferent or unaware of critical infrastructure kinetic cyber incidents

<https://www.controlglobal.com/blogs/unfettered/blog/55141733/government-and-industry-are-indifferent-or-unaware-of-critical-infrastructure-kinetic-cyber-incidents>

(China, U.S.) 5 Things To Know About The Latest Critical Infrastructure Cyberattacks

<https://www.crn.com/news/security/2024/5-things-to-know-about-the-latest-critical-infrastructure-cyberattacks?itc=refresh>

(U.S., Global) Critical Automated Tank Gauge Bugs Threaten Gas Infrastructure

<https://www.darkreading.com/ics-ot-security/critical-automated-tank-gauge-bugs-critical-infrastructure>

CYBER STRATEGY AND WARFARE

Russia's H1 2024 Cyber Offensive Strategy Favored Espionage Over Destruction

Mihir Bagwe – The Cyber Express: 23 September 2024

Moscow preferred espionage over destruction in its cyber offensive strategy against Ukraine in the first half of 2024, showing the evolving nature of the Kremlin's targeted cyberattacks on Kyiv.

<https://thecyberexpress.com/russia-h1-2024-cyber-offensive-strategy/>

For more on this theme:

(Israel) Hezbollah pager attack puts spotlight on Israel's cyber warfare Unit 8200

<https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/hezbollah-pager-attack-puts-spotlight-israels-cyber-warfare-unit-8200-2024-09-18/>

(UK) Is cyber warfare the next frontier? New research reveals over 70% of Brits think it is

<https://techinformed.com/is-cyber-warfare-the-next-frontier-new-research-reveals-over-70-of-brits-think-it-is/>

(UK) Nuclear vs cyber deterrence: why the UK should invest more in its cyber capabilities and less in nuclear deterrence

<https://europeanleadershipnetwork.org/commentary/nuclear-vs-cyber-deterrence-why-the-uk-should-invest-more-in-its-cyber-capabilities-and-less-in-nuclear-deterrence/>

(Russia, Global) Cyber espionage in wartime: how Russia plays its cards

<https://thediplomatinspain.com/en/2024/09/18/cyber-espionage-in-wartime-how-russia-plays-its-cards/93997/>

CYBERCRIME

Philippine senator says China should do more to help fight cybercrime gangs

Jim Gomez – The Associated Press: 20 September 2024

China should do more to battle the illegal online gambling and scam call centers run by Chinese criminal syndicates in Southeast Asian countries, a Philippine senator who led an investigation into the centers said.

<https://apnews.com/article/philippines-china-illegal-online-gambling-scams-55a5bf33db5d956a92f2af96aa5bf641>

For more on this theme:

(Australia) Government Releases Scams Prevention Framework Draft Legislation

<https://australiancybersecuritymagazine.com.au/government-releases-scams-prevention-framework-draft-legislation/>

(Global) Rethinking the United Nations Cybercrime Treaty

<https://www.justsecurity.org/100333/rethinking-united-nations-cybercrime-treaty/>

(U.S., Global) Risk company reports business email cybercrime claim costs have skyrocketed

<https://www.repairerdrivennews.com/2024/09/20/risk-company-reports-business-email-cybercrime-claim-costs-have-skyrocketed/>

(U.S., Russia) US-led operation disrupts crypto exchanges linked to Russian cybercrime

<https://therecord.media/cryptocurrency-exchanges-seizures-ivanov-sanctions-us-netherlands>

STATE-SPONSORED CYBERATTACKS

Chinese Hackers Infiltrate U.S. Internet Providers in Cyber Espionage Campaign

Ravie Lakshmanan – The Hacker News: 26 September 2024

Hackers backed by Beijing broke into a handful of U.S. internet service providers as part of a cyber espionage campaign to glean sensitive information, The Wall Street Journal reported.

<https://thehackernews.com/2024/09/chinese-hackers-infiltrate-us-internet.html>

For more on this theme:

(Russia, Ukraine) Russia's digital warfare on Ukraine shows no signs of slowing: Malware hits surge

https://www.theregister.com/2024/09/24/russia_malware_ukraine_attacks/

(Sweden, Iran) Sweden Links Iran to Cyberattack Targeting Text Messaging Service

<https://thecyberexpress.com/cyberattacks-on-sweden/>

CYBER RESILIENCE

London Cybersecurity Summit: Building Cyber Resilience

Pooja Tikekar – Bank Info Security: 20 September 2024

At the annual Cybersecurity Summit: London, top cybersecurity professionals, executives and thought leaders came together to find solutions to the latest threats, identity-related weaknesses and emerging risks posed by artificial intelligence technology.

<https://www.bankinfosecurity.com/london-cybersecurity-summit-building-cyber-resilience-a-26330>

For more on this theme:

(Global) This is venture capital's key role in driving global cyber resilience

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2024/09/venture-capital-role-cyber-resilience-cybersecurity/>

(Global) Integrate red, blue and purple teams into cyber resilience strategy

<https://www.securitymagazine.com/articles/101020-integrate-red-blue-and-purple-teams-into-cyber-resilience-strategy>

(U.S.) CISA's Shields Up Expansion, Shields Ready, Spotlights Resilience

<https://fedtechmagazine.com/article/2024/07/cisas-shields-expansion-shields-ready-spotlights-resilience-perfcon>

(Global) Perfect Cybersecurity Is Impossible. Here's a Better Goal for Businesses

<https://biztechmagazine.com/article/2024/09/perfect-cybersecurity-impossible-heres-better-goal-businesses>

RANSOMWARE

Ransomware incidents hit 117 countries in 2023, task force says

Jonathan Greig – The Record: 26 September 2024

More than 6,500 ransomware attacks were recorded in 2023, with at least 117 countries experiencing ransomware incidents launched by 66 different groups. There was a 73% year-over-year increase in attacks, with notable spikes in June and July due to the exploitation of a popular file transfer tool.

<https://therecord.media/ransomware-task-force-2023-global-report>

For more on this theme:

(U.S.) The Vanilla Tempest cybercrime gang used INC ransomware for the first time in attacks on the healthcare sector

<https://securityaffairs.com/168633/uncategorized/vanilla-tempest-used-inc-ransomware.html>

(Global) How Ransomhub Ransomware Uses EDRKillShifter to Disable EDR and Antivirus Protections

https://www.trendmicro.com/en_us/research/24/i/how-ransomhub-ransomware-uses-edrkillshifter-to-disable-edr-and-.html

(Global) How Government Agencies Could Help Improve Ransomware Readiness

<https://www.forbes.com/councils/forbestechcouncil/2024/09/24/how-government-agencies-could-help-improve-ransomware-readiness/>

(Canada) AutoCanada says ransomware attack “may” impact employee data

<https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/security/autocanada-says-ransomware-attack-may-impact-employee-data/>

PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

Perspectives: ISKP intensifying online propaganda targeting Russia and Central Asia

Lucas Webber and Louise Meloy – Eurasianet: 20 September 2024

Since the Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan in 2021, the Islamic State group's Afghanistan affiliate has emerged as the most globally ambitious and active branch in both its operations and propaganda of all radical Islamic groups.

<https://eurasianet.org/perspectives-iskp-intensifying-online-propaganda-targeting-russia-and-central-asia>

For more on this theme:

Column: Should Americans Still Worry About Terrorism on the Anniversary of September 11?

<https://www.hstoday.us/featured/column-should-americans-still-worry-about-terrorism-on-the-anniversary-of-september-11/>

India receives 'disparate' terror threats from ISIS and Al Qaeda groups

<https://indiashorts.com/india-receives-disparate-terror-threats-from-isis-and-al-qaeda-groups/178189/>

Sweden charges a woman with war crimes for allegedly torturing Yazidi women and children in Syria

<https://apnews.com/article/sweden-islamic-state-yazidi-women-war-crimes-44b7d31d9cc36131023f808aa55fce01>

France charges ISIS bride with crimes including genocide

<https://www.politico.eu/article/france-opens-first-ever-genocide-case-isis-sonia-mejri-syria/>

Jihadists step up attacks on Burkina Faso civilians — rights group

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c77x45y130lo>

From message boards to TikTok: al-Qaeda's two decades of internet exploitation

https://www.isdglobal.org/digital_dispatches/from-message-boards-to-tiktok-al-qaedas-two-decades-of-internet-exploitation/

The Interlinked Threat Of ISKP And TTP – OpEd

<https://www.eurasiareview.com/19092024-the-interlinked-threat-of-iskp-and-ttp-oped/>

Taliban's Denial Of Al-Qaeda And TTP In Afghanistan: Strategic Deflection Or Enduring Alliances? – OpEd

<https://www.eurasiareview.com/16092024-talibans-denial-of-al-qaeda-and-ttp-in-afghanistan-strategic-deflection-or-enduring-alliances-oped/>

Flooding in Nigeria Destroys Prison, Frees Boko Haram Militants

<https://www.vice.com/en/article/flooding-nigeria-prison-boko-haram/>

TTP & ISKP: Two Sides of the Same Coin

<https://modern diplomacy.eu/2024/09/20/ttp-iskp-two-sides-of-the-same-coin/>

Capitalising on Operation Lake Sanity's success against Boko Haram

<https://issafrica.org/iss-today/capitalising-on-operation-lake-sanity-s-success-against-boko-haram>

GRAY AREA DYNAMICS, HYBRID WARFARE AND INFORMATION OPERATIONS

What Next for Wagner's Information Operations?

Antonio Giustozzi – RUSI: 23 September 2024

The Wagner Group's information operations team, which has played a key role in the group's activities in Africa, appears to have survived the death of Yevgeny Prigozhin – albeit in a reduced form.

<https://rusi.org/explore-our-research/publications/commentary/what-next-wagners-information-operations>

For more on this theme:

Dispatch from Manila: On the frontlines of the 'gray zone' conflict with China

<https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/new-atlanticist/dispatch-from-manila-on-the-frontlines-of-the-gray-zone-conflict-with-china/>

2024 Sabina shoal standoff: A timeline

<https://www.benarnews.org/english/news/philippine/sabina-shoal-timeline-09192024124325.html>

Russian espionage, sabotage in Europe now 'more likely,' Norwegian intel chief warns

<https://www.politico.eu/article/russian-kremlin-espionage-sabotage-europe-head-of-norwegian-intelligence-service-nils-andreas-stenones/>

The MDI of the Russian Federation has been waging a cyber war against Ukraine, the EU and NATO for years

<https://news.online.ua/en/the-gru-of-the-russian-federation-has-been-waging-a-cyber-war-against-ukraine-the-eu-and-nato-for-years-884306/>

China's 'Spamouflage' Aims To Confuse Voters Ahead Of Election

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/petersuciu/2024/09/10/chinas-spamouflage-aims-to-confuse-voters-ahead-of-election/>

Leaked Records Detail Vast Russian Influence Campaign Targeting Ukraine, EU

<https://www.rferl.org/a/russia-ukraine-disinformation-propaganda-campaign/33123498.html>

'Make a Molotov Cocktail': How Europeans Are Recruited Through Telegram to Commit Sabotage, Arson, and Murder

<https://www.occrp.org/en/investigation/make-a-molotov-cocktail-how-europeans-are-recruited-through-telegram-to-commit-sabotage-arson-and-murder>

ISRAEL/HAMAS/IRAN

What to know about the growing conflict between Israel and Lebanon's Hezbollah

Lee Keath – *The Associated Press*: 26 September 2024

Since mid-September, there has been a dizzying escalation in the nearly yearlong conflict between Israel and Lebanon's Hezbollah.

<https://apnews.com/article/israel-lebanon-hezbollah-war-pagers-920ced5349562163eeb96d6a5a768e89>

For more on this theme:

Hezbollah says top commander, several officers killed in Israeli strike on Beirut suburb

<https://www.npr.org/2024/09/20/nx-s1-5120538/israel-airstrike-beirut-lebanon-hezbollah>

Hack of Hezbollah devices exposes dark corners of Asia supply chains

<https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/hack-hezbollah-devices-exposes-dark-corners-asia-supply-chains-2024-09-20/>

Thousands of exploding devices in Lebanon trigger a nation that has been on edge for years

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Israel is targeting Hezbollah commanders like Ali Karaki, but will it work?

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ISRAEL/HAMAS/IRAN

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Independent Thinking: Why is Israel striking Hezbollah now?

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RUSSIA/UKRAINE

Why do the US and its allies want to seize Russian reserves to aid Ukraine?

Sam Boocker, Alexander Conner, and David Wessel – Brookings: 23 September 2024

After Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022, Russia's foreign exchange reserves held by the U.S. and its allies were frozen. Since then, some officials and commentators have proposed seizing those assets of nearly \$300 billion and using the proceeds to defend and rebuild Ukraine.

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Putin's purging of defence ministry suggests he is preparing for a long war

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