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COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

Anti-corruption progress in Ukraine and Moldova is vital for EU integration
Olivia Yanchik – Atlantic City: 21 September 2023
Both countries seek to strengthen their institutions and accelerate European Union membership.

For more on this theme:
Myanmar's ruling military drops 2 generals suspected of corruption in a government reshuffle
https://apnews.com/article/myanmar-army-corruption-cabinet-reshuffle-9e2a235d2e4cc31b17a2e42f6bf12a31

Why some doctors are taking a pay cut amid China's crackdown on medical corruption to stop 'red envelope' bribes
https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-09-14/china-crackdown-medical-corruption-doctors-income/102815534

Two Families, Notorious for Enabling Corruption in Kyrgyzstan, United in Marriage

The Human Toll Of Corruption In Macedonian Cancer Care
https://www.rferl.org/a/macedonia-corruption-cancer-drugs/32585400.html

Risk of corruption in Border Force increased by staff dissatisfaction

Tajikistan: Terrorism, slander, corruption claims swirl in latest sign of elite infighting

Insight: Europe’s massive money laundering and corruption problem; crime gangs exploit fintech, vIBANs and DeFi, Europol warns in report

Eritrea's Pioneering Efforts to Combat Corruption: A Model for Africa?

Corruption in South Africa: would paying whistleblowers help?

Xi’s anti-corruption drive will impact Chinese military, Beijing’s ambitions take a setback
https://theprint.in/opinion/xi-s-anti-corruption-drive-will-impact-chinese-military-beijings-ambitions-take-a-setback/1769310/
DRUG TRAFFICKING

From chickens to cabs: Drug cartels expand across the Mexican economy
Isabella Cota – El País: 21 September 2023
By forcing its way into more sectors, organized crime has become a “dominant economic cartel,” according to analysts.

Nigerian Couriers Central to Brazil-West Africa Cocaine Route
Gavin Voss – InSight Crime: 28 September 2023
Small trafficking groups embedded in Nigeria’s expansive diaspora play a significant role in moving cocaine between Latin America and consumer markets, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime reports.

For more on this theme:
Opinion: Bracing for a Fentanyl Crisis in Nigeria

UN Concerned Unregulated Meth Chemicals Going to Myanmar

Shooting down drones isn’t enough to stop Jordan’s crystal meth problem

Why Chinese Mafias Are Moving Into Chile

Captagon produced ‘on demand’ in Netherlands for Middle East export

Brief: Drug-Trafficking and Jihadist Nexus Possibly Behind Terror Attack in Southern Thailand

Cocaine set to become Colombia’s main export, overtaking oil

Captagon — the little white pill fueling Syria’s drug trade
TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

Poached, caged, shipped in socks: on patrol with the police battling Colombia’s illegal wildlife trade


For decades the plundering of protected species went unchallenged, but new efforts are being made to halt traffickers across Latin America and the Caribbean.


Wildlife trafficking is rife around the world. This group went undercover with a former Australian cop’s help

*Nick Baker and Belinda Sommer – ABC News: 22 September 2023*

Despite an international trade ban, extensive poaching and trafficking have seen all eight pangolin species listed as either critically endangered, endangered or vulnerable.


For more on this theme:

**Fishing Activities of Chinese Fleet in South Atlantic Increases Eightfold**


**Jihadist groups threaten the conservation of a key west African world heritage site**

https://theconversation.com/jihadist-groups-threaten-the-conservation-of-a-key-west-african-world-heritage-site-new-study-212277

**Government unveils toll free hotline for reporting illegal logging**

https://www.kbc.co.ke/government-unveils-toll-free-hotline-for-reporting-illegal-logging/

**Ecuador nature reserve will take years to recover after oil exit – minister**


**Sponsor an ocean? Tiny island nation of Niue has a novel plan to protect its slice of the Pacific**


**Triads, Snakeheads, and Flying Money: The Underworld of Chinese Criminal Networks in Latin America and the Caribbean**


**Amazon Countries Unite to Protect Rainforest**

https://dialogo-americas.com/articles/amazon-countries-unite-to-protect-rainforest/
INTERNET FREEDOM

Putin’s quest to disconnect Russia from the global internet
Mercedes Page – The Strategist: 26 September 2023

In a test of Russia’s “sovereign internet,” Roskomnadzor, the government agency responsible for controlling Russian mass media, worked with telecommunications companies and internet service providers to disconnect the country from the global internet for a few hours.

For more on this theme:
(Africa) TikTok faces potential bans, scrutiny in Africa

(Global) A Tricky New Way to Sneak Past Repressive Internet Censorship

(Russia) Russia imposes ‘military censorship’ on the internet, ban on public gatherings and strikes in occupied Ukraine

CYBER STRATEGY AND RISKS

Defense Department Releases 2023 Cyber Strategy Summary
Homeland Security Today: 14 September 2023

The strategy highlights United States Department of Defense (DOD) actions to invest in and ensure the defense, availability, reliability and resilience of its cyber networks and infrastructure to support non-DOD agencies.

For more on this theme:
(Australia) Australia must put cyber at centre of national security

(China, North Korea) China, North Korea pursue new targets while honing cyber capabilities

(North Korea) North Korea’s Cybercrimes Pay for Weapons Programs and Undermine Sanctions
**CYBERATTACKS**

*Bermuda premier says ‘sophisticated and deliberate’ cyberattack hobbles government services*

*The Associated Press: 25 September 2023*

A major cyberattack has hobbled government operations in Bermuda, and officials are struggling to restore service.

https://apnews.com/article/bermuda-cyberattack-government-services-7b7ab914523c388140d9c3b-da582e11a

*For more on this theme:*

(U.S.) MGM, Caesars Cyberattack Responses Required Brutal Choices


(China) Chinese students terrified as scammers reap millions


(New Zealand) New Zealand university operating despite cyberattack

https://therecord.media/auckland-university-operating-cyberattack

**CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING**

*Estonian firm develops virtual ‘shooting range’ to test cyber defenses*

*Jaroslaw Adamowski – C4ISRNET: 14 September 2023*

CybExer Technologies has developed methods to help Ukraine and other countries safeguard cyber infrastructure.


*For more on this theme:*

(Romania) How Romania built its blazingly fast internet


(Kenya) Digital Superhighway pathway to a brighter future for all Kenyans


(Nepal) Cyber Defense for Nepal: Do we need a specialized police force or national authority in Nepal?

CYBERCRIME

AU’s 2063 agenda at risk due to cybercrime
Adekunle Agbetiloye – Business Insider Africa: 22 September 2023

At the African Internet Governance Forum in Abuja, Nigeria, cybercrime was cited as a potential threat to implementing the African Union Agenda.

https://africa.businessinsider.com/local/leaders/au-2063-agenda-at-risk-due-to-cybercrime/cp5gb2r

For more on this theme:

(Global) Every second counts: how data can help combat cybercrime

(Africa) Africa should unite to fight cybercrime
https://nation.africa/kenya/blogs-opinion/letters/africa-should-unite-to-fight-cybercrime-4372086

(India) Study: Financial fraud top cybercrime in India

(Africa) Need To Mitigate Rising Cyber Incidents In Africa
https://independent.ng/need-to-mitigate-rising-cyber-incidents-in-africa/

CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION

DHS looks to harmonize cyber reporting for critical industry
Alexandra Kelley – Nextgov/FCW: 22 September 2023

In a congressionally mandated report, the United States Department of Homeland Security acknowledges the problems faced by critical industry sectors of overlap and duplication in cyber incident reporting.


For more on this theme:

(Australia) Critical infrastructure, national security and business continuity

(U.S.) DHS warns of malicious AI use against critical infrastructure

ISIS AND FOREIGN FIGHTERS

Captured ISIS Insurgents (and Their Wives) Say Why They Fought for the Caliphate in ‘Rojek’
Blake Stilwell – Military.com: 26 September 2023

Canadian filmmaker Zaynê Akyol, who was born to Kurdish parents, interviewed some of the jihadist prisoners as the battle for Syrian Kurdistan raged against the Islamic State group. Her documentary “Rojek” tells the story of the rise and fall of the caliphate through their answers.


For more on this theme:

U.S. military captures ISIS official in helicopter raid in Syria

Iran Says 28 Islamic State Members Held Over Tehran Plot

Uganda Says It Killed Islamic State-Linked Rebel Chief in Congo

Uzbekistan May Be America’s Key to Combating the Islamic State
https://thediplomat.com/2023/09/uzbekistan-may-be-americas-key-to-combating-the-islamic-state/

Online Jihadism: Authorities Disrupt an Islamic State Youth Recruiting Network in Spain

Canada Shows Scant Interest in Bringing Home IS Fighters

War against ISIS rages in Iraq and Syria

Mechanism Documenting Daesh Atrocities To End Its Work In 2024

New fighting in eastern Syria ‘risks re-emergence of Daesh’
https://www.arabnews.com/node/2369426/middle-east

ISKP Rejects Taliban’s Fatwa: A Dispute Over Religious Authority – OpEd
TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

The Future of Homeland Security: Addressing the Rise of Terrorism in Africa
Donna Charles – United States Institute of Peace: 27 September 2023

Donna Charles, of the U.S. Institute of Peace, testified before a U.S. House subcommittee on terrorism in Sub-Saharan Africa and how its evolution poses a threat to the homeland.


For more on this theme:

The Taliban's Lessons Learned And Lingering Threats: TTP And Al Qaeda On Afghan Soil – OpEd

Can Soft Power Defeat al-Shabab in Somalia?
https://carnegieendowment.org/sada/90492

Al-Shabaab Threatens Ethiopian Security Ahead of ATMIS Withdrawal from Somalia

Somalia Shifts Military Tactics in Fight Against Al-Shabab
https://allafrica.com/stories/202309070062.html

How deradicalisation programmes are helping former Boko Haram captives find their way back
https://www.gavi.org/vaccineswork/how-deradicalisation-programmes-are-helping-former-boko-haram-captives

US unveils sanctions on Hezbollah operatives in South America, Lebanon

Lebanon: What are the intentions of a bolder, stronger Hezbollah?

Taliban Sell Afghanistan’s Mines Despite Sanctions

Risk of laundering and terrorism in Kenya surges with the region’s cryptocurrency boom

Islamic Jihadism and the Laws of War
https://lieber.westpoint.edu/islamic-jihadism-laws-of-war/
RUSSIA/UKRAINE

Ukraine: The Next 10 Months Can Shape Hopes for Peace
William B. Taylor – United States Institute of Peace: 27 September 2023

By summer 2024, three evolutions could help open a path for a just and lasting peace.
https://www.usip.org/publications/2023/09/ukraine-next-10-months-can-shape-hopes-peace

For more on this theme:

Kyiv’s Mobilization for Restoration
https://www.gmfus.org/news/kyivs-mobilization-restoration

Civil Society in Ukraine’s Restoration
https://www.gmfus.org/news/civil-society-ukraines-restoration

What Ukraine Needs to Win the War Against Russia
https://www.cfr.org/in-brief/what-ukraine-needs-win-war-against-russia

The Fate of Justice in Russia-Ukraine Peace Talks

Security Guarantees for Ukraine: Reshaping Russia’s Incentives
https://www.thecipherbrief.com/column/opinion/security-guarantees-for-ukraine-reshaping-russias-incentives

Ukraine’s drone army is bringing Putin’s invasion home to Russia
https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/ukrainealert/ukraines-drone-army-is-bringing-putins-invasion-home-to-russia/

Ukraine: Rape and torture by Russian forces continuing, rights experts report

Russia smells blood as Ukraine tries to stop war fatigue spreading among allies

Ukraine breaks Russia’s main defensive line with armor as forces make critical advances

How to Make Russia Pay to Rebuild Ukraine

Belarus’ top diplomat says he can’t imagine his country entering the war in Ukraine alongside Russia

Russia seeks to rejoin UN Human Rights Council despite its war on Ukraine
RUSSIA/UKRAINE

For more on this theme:

Russia's Wagner troops are back on the battlefield, Ukraine says
https://www.politico.eu/article/russian-wagner-group-back-war-front-in-ukraine-kyiv-forces-say/

How surging trade with China is boosting Russia's war

Exclusive: Russian hackers seek war crimes evidence, Ukraine cyber chief says

After Russia's Invasion Of Ukraine, Bulgaria Is Rapidly Trying To Modernize Its Armed Forces
https://www.rferl.org/a/bulgaria-modernizing-armed-forces-russia-ukraine/32608683.html

How the Russia-Ukraine War Is Reshaping EU-Uzbekistan Relations

Deal 'with the devil': Meet the Cubans who've joined Russia’s war on Ukraine
https://www.politico.eu/article/cuban-mercenaries-join-russian-army-ukraine-war/

‘Bursts of anxiety’: Impact of Ukraine war on Russians laid bare in poll

Ukraine war: Training to clear the world's most heavily mined country

War crimes dossier to accuse Russia of deliberately causing starvation in Ukraine

Ukraine’s counteroffensive is making real progress on the Crimean front

Ukraine War a Financial Boon for Small-Town Russia, But Can It Last?
https://carnegieendowment.org/politika/90648

Regime Change in Russia Won't Lead to Chaos or Collapse
https://carnegieendowment.org/politika/90622

Why Russia Keeps Holding Elections
https://carnegieendowment.org/politika/90619

Ukraine and Russia traded barbs in the UN's top court over the legality of the invasion. What could happen next in the case?
RUSSIA/UKRAINE

For more on this theme:

Loud complicity: Why Russian officials are breaking their silence on Ukraine

All-weather allies: Ukraine’s counteroffensive and the coming winter

Rifts and realities: The strained bond between Poland and Ukraine

Russia May Have Just Given Ukraine Terms for Ending War
https://www.newsweek.com/russia-may-have-just-given-ukraine-terms-ending-war-1829980

Ukraine's awkward allies: the far-right Russians fighting on Kyiv's side

Austria's lessons for Ukraine about neutrality and Russia

Landmines in Ukraine: Lessons for China and Taiwan

Russia Vows to Return All Children ‘Rescued’ from Ukraine Upon Request

Symmetric and Asymmetric Warfare in the Russia-Ukraine War
https://politicstoday.org/symmetric-and-asymmetric-warfare-russia-ukraine-war/

Russia resumes bombing campaign of Ukraine's civilian energy infrastructure

The Russia and Ukraine war is a battle of perceptions between democracy and authoritarianism

The President's Inbox Recap: Ukraine's 2023 Counteroffensive
https://www.cfr.org/blog/presidents-inbox-recap-ukraines-2023-counteroffensive

Ukraine accuses Russian spies of hunting for war-crime info on its servers

The Belarus-Russia Alliance: An Axis of Autocracy in Eastern Europe
https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/belarus-russia-alliance-axis-autocracy-eastern-europe

Ukraine War Outcome Will Shape China's Behavior, Say US Senators
https://cepa.org/article/ukraine-war-outcome-will-shape-chinas-behavior-say-us-senators/

Romania Worries About Fallout from Ukraine War
https://cepa.org/article/romania-worries-about-fallout-from-ukraine-war/