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COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

Myanmar junta sentences Suu Kyi to 6 more years for corruption
Agence France-Presse: 12 October 2022

Myanmar’s junta sentenced ousted leader Aung San Suu Kyi to another six years in prison for corruption, a source with knowledge of the case said, taking the Nobel laureate’s total jail time to 26 years.

Exporting Corruption 2022: Top trading countries doing even less than before to stop foreign bribery
Transparency International: 11 October 2022

Despite a few breakthroughs, multinational companies bribing their way into foreign markets go largely unpunished, and victims’ compensation is rare.

For more on this theme:
Corruption watchdog to look into 83 reports of possible political promotion violations

Malaysian Anti-Corruption Organization Wants to Promote Whistleblower Protections

Ex-El Salvador soccer chief sentenced to 16 months in FIFA corruption case

Serbian institutional fight against corruption: Point blank shot?

How corruption cripples business at Africa’s seaports

Rise in women involved in corruption raises concern, says MACC chief

How police corruption actually works in the UK

Met Police creates anti-corruption unit to ‘root out’ criminal officers
DRUG TRAFFICKING

Sao Paulo’s ‘Crackland’ Reflects Brazil’s Rising Role in Drug Trade
Edgar Maciel – Voice of America: 6 October 2022

Brazil, once a minor player in drug trafficking, now ranks among the world’s top sources of cocaine and is the main transshipment point of narcotics to Europe. In Sao Paulo, South America’s largest city, the illegal drug trade has turned entire neighborhoods into wastelands.

The Al-Assad Regime’s Captagon Trade
Taim Alhajj – Carnegie: 6 October 2022

The Syrian regime is exploiting the chaos of the ongoing war to build a flourishing drug empire.
https://carnegieendowment.org/sada/88109

For more on this theme:

Korea to declare war on drugs, administration sources say
https://koreajoongangdaily.joins.com/2022/10/03/national/socialAffairs/Korea-war-on-drugs-Yoon-Sukyeol/20221003162337660.html

Colombia to keep fighting drugs, criminal groups amid drive for total peace

Police Dismantle Network of Corrupt Port Workers Facilitating ‘Ndrangheta Drug Trafficking

Ice and Instability: Illicit Financial Flows Along Thailand’s Borders

A generation weakened by drugs
https://www.thecable.ng/generation-weakened-drugs

The drug situation in Kosovo and its repercussion on national security
https://globalinitiative.net/analysis/drug-kosovo-national-security/

US to support Jordan in countering drug smuggling
https://www.thenationalnews.com/mena/jordan/2022/10/06/us-to-support-jordan-in-countering-drug-smuggling/

Thai PM Calls for Tighter Gun and Drug Laws After Pre-School Massacre
https://www.vice.com/en/article/3ad75n/gun-control-calls-thailand-massacre

Illegal drug trade a big issue: Amit Shah
TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

Indonesia foresters hope Garuda poachers turn gamekeepers
L. Darmawan – Mongabay: 11 October 2022
Local foresters have teamed with bird hunters to map the biodiversity on Mount Slamet, a habitat of the endangered Javan hawk-eagle.
https://news.mongabay.com/2022/10/indonesia-foresters-hope-garuda-poachers-turn-gamekeepers/

Sustainable catch: better Indonesia-Australia cooperation on fishing
Aristyo Rizka Darmawan – The Interpreter: 10 October 2022
A new agreement is a chance to address the core problems of illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.
https://www.lowyinstitute.org/the-interpreter/sustainable-catch-better-indonesia-australia-cooperation-fishing

For more on this theme:
Policy Watch: Norway deal with Indonesia a bright spot amid deepening deforestation crisis

Stepping up the global fight against wildlife crime through a united response
https://www.interpol.int/fr/Actualites-et-evenements/Actualites/2022/Stepping-up-the-global-fight-against-wildlife-crime-through-a-united-response

Spotlight on Kenya’s ambitions to control wildlife crime

Malaria Spike Tied to Amphibian Die-off, Team Including UMD Researcher Finds
https://www.einnews.com/pr_news/593999264/malaria-spike-tied-to-amphibian-die-off-team-including-umd-researcher-finds

Indigenous defenders stand between illegal roads and survival of the Amazon rainforest

Illegal Mining Is A Livelihood And Security Issue — Time To Rethink The Solution To The Menace

The Outlaw Ocean Episode 2: The World’s Largest Illegal Fishing Fleet

Chinese Fishing Fleet Threatens Marine Biodiversity in Latin America and the Caribbean
**INTERNET FREEDOM**

**VPN use skyrockets in Iran as citizens navigate internet censorship under Tehran’s crackdown**

Ryan Browne – CNBC: 6 October 2022

Iranians are turning to virtual private networks to bypass widespread internet disruptions as the government tries to conceal its crackdown on mass protests.


*For more on this theme:*

(Global) Demand for VPNs surges across the world, finds report


(China) China steps up social media censorship, ‘upgrades’ Great Firewall ahead of congress


**CYBER STATECRAFT AND STRATEGY**

**Ukraine and EU explore deeper cyber collaboration**

Alex Scroxton – Computer Weekly: 10 October 2022

A Ukrainian delegation has met with officials from the EU’s ENISA cyber agency to explore deeper cooperation on cybersecurity.


*For more on this theme:*

(Malaysia, Global) Cyber space diplomacy imperative

https://www.thesundaily.my/opinion/cyber-space-diplomacy-imperative-HA9938801


CYBER ATTACKS, THREATS AND VULNERABILITIES

Pro-Russian hackers claim responsibility for knocking U.S. airport websites offline
Vanessa Romo – NPR: 10 October 2022
A pro-Russian hacker group is taking credit for temporarily taking down several U.S. airport websites, though there appeared to be no impact on flight operations.
https://www.npr.org/2022/10/10/1127902795/airport-killnet-cyberattack-hacker-russia

For more on this theme:
(Singapore) Singtel’s second unit faces cyber attack weeks after Optus data breach
(Australia) Australia’s Medibank reports cyber incident, shares on trading halt
(U.S.) Info expected to emerge slowly in hospital chain cyberattack
(Costa Rica) Costa Rican Social Security Fund Fully Recovers After Cyber-Attack

CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING

Tanzania to invest in infrastructure to fight cyber-crime
Hellen Nachilongo – The Citizen: 11 October 2022
Tanzania is set to invest in technology, infrastructure and training to strengthen cybersecurity in the country.

For more on this theme:
(Asia) Commonwealth experts meet in Singapore to explore solutions to increasing cyber risks in Asia
(EU) EU aims to tackle threats to submarine data cables
(India) Karnataka to have Forensic Sciences University to help fight cyber crime: Home Minister
(South Africa) South Africans must up their game against cybercrime
https://mg.co.za/opinion/2022-10-12-south-africans-must-up-their-game-against-cybercrime/
CYBERCRIME

For cyber criminals, ransomware is the popular weapon of choice
Rob Di Pietro – The Australian: 11 October 2022

Of all the cyberthreats, ransomware attacks remain among the most persistent, presenting a serious risk to Australian organizations.


For more on this theme:

(Cambodia, Global) Sold to gangs, forced to run online scams: inside Cambodia's cybercrime crisis
https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/oct/10/sold-to-gangs-forced-to-run-online-scams-inside-cambodias-cybercrime-crisis

(Global) Jake Moore – deepfake is the next weapon in cybercrime
https://www.information-age.com/jake-moore-deepfake-is-the-next-weapon-in-cybercrime-123500131/

(Global) Russia-Linked Cybercrime Group Hawks Combo of Malicious Services With LilithBot

CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION

Prevent Ransomware Attacks on Critical Infrastructure
William Malik – Trend Micro: 13 October 2022

Applying strong cyberdefenses to six critical operational technology domains can help prevent threats to power grids, pipelines and essential operations.


For more on this theme:

(Europe) Nord Stream leaks highlight difficulty of protecting critical infrastructure

(Ukraine, Russia, Global) Ukraine Warns of Massive Russian Cyber Attacks on the Country's and Allies’ Critical Infrastructure

(U.S.) A case for market-driven cybersecurity in critical infrastructure
PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

ISIS AND FOREIGN FIGHTERS

**What's Behind ISIS Khorasan's Relentless Attacks on Mosques in Afghanistan?**
*Mahmut Cengiz – Homeland Security Today: 7 October 2022*

The Islamic State group’s Afghanistan affiliate wants the world to know it is serious about achieving its goals and will not be ignored.


**ISKP is a mounting threat to India’s regional security**
*Sameer Pathil, Masom Jan Masomy – The Hindustan Times: 6 October 2022*

In the past year, the Islamic State group’s Afghanistan affiliate, through its violent attacks, has attempted to create instability in the country and beyond to trigger propaganda for its jihadi goals.


For more on this theme:

**Islamic State: women, justice, and a complex impasse**

**Top US court to decide if social media firms can be held liable in Islamic State attacks**

**ISKP’s Propaganda Threatens Asia’s Security Apparatus**

**ISWAP Rebrands, Expands Scope Of Operations**

**Renewed Sectarian Tensions Risk Radicalizing Crisis-hit Pakistan**

**Open Wounds: The Families Left Behind by Albanians Killed in Syria**

**Syria: Thousands of alleged IS members could face trial in northeast**
[https://english.alaraby.co.uk/news/thousands-alleged-members-could-face-trial-ne-syria](https://english.alaraby.co.uk/news/thousands-alleged-members-could-face-trial-ne-syria)

**ISIS and the Syrian Camps**
TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

**Women and Children to the Front**
*Farah Pandith and Jacob Ware – Lawfare: 9 October 2022*

In recent years men have dominated the ranks of terrorists, but that may be changing. Women and children — typically portrayed as victims — are playing important roles in terrorist movements and counterterrorism needs to adapt accordingly.


**Nearly half of world’s terror victims are African, with organised crime increasingly entrenched**
*United Nations: 6 October 2022*

The threat of terrorism and organized crime is becoming increasingly entrenched across Africa, the head of the U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime told the Security Council, warning that illegal trafficking is depriving millions of a livelihood.


For more on this theme:

**Stronger Regulation, Cross-Border Coordination Key to Stopping Terrorism across Africa Funded by Illegal Trafficking in Natural Resources, Speakers Tell Security Council**


**India Bans Muslim Group for Alleged Terrorist Activities**

https://thediplomat.com/2022/09/india-bans-muslim-group-for-alleged-terrorist-activities/

**Ban on Islamic Organization Draws Mixed Reactions in India**


**Shabaab Continues to Lose Ground in Central Somalia**


**Careful balance needed to advance humanitarian action while countering terror**

https://issafrica.org/iss-today/careful-balance-needed-to-advance-humanitarian-action-while-counter-ting-terror

**Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS): No longer an Al-Qaeda Affiliate**


**The Pakistani Taliban’s Quest for a Sharia State by Demerging FATA from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa**


**Taliban: Structure, Strategy, Agenda, and the International Terrorism Threat**

RADICALIZATION

Exploring Online Radicalization and How to Spot Extremist Content and What To Do About It: A British Case Study
Elisa Orofino – European Eye on Radicalization: 4 October 2022

In a post-pandemic society, online radicalization stands as a real and pressing threat.

For more on this theme:
Empowering, Enabling, and Exacerbating Extremism: The Dark Side of Digitisation?

OSCE Mission to Montenegro brings young athletes to discuss their engagement in combating violent radicalization
https://www.osce.org/mission-to-montenegro/527046

Insider threat warning as rising number of far-right extremists flagged in Britain's armed forces
https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/army-nazis-far-right-extremism-b2191499.html

CONFLICT AND CRIME

Ukraine parents ‘want their children back’ from Russia
Al Jazeera: 7 October 2022
Kyiv accuses Moscow of forcibly deporting 1.6 million Ukrainians, and efforts are underway to return 32 illegally adopted children.

For more on this theme:
Ukraine: UN General Assembly demands Russia reverse course on ‘attempted illegal annexation’

‘War crime:' Industrial-scale destruction of Ukraine culture
https://apnews.com/article/russia-ukraine-kyiv-travel-museums-7431f2190d917f44f76dff39b4d5df54

Photos: Ukraine exhumes dozens of bodies in two eastern towns

The Russian Federation’s Ongoing Aggression Against Ukraine, Including Illegal Attempts to Legalize the Occupation of Eastern Ukraine
CONFLICT AND CRIME

For more on this theme:

Raid a war crime, says UN rights office

UN, G7 decry Russian attack on Ukraine as possible war crime
https://apnews.com/article/russia-ukraine-nato-kyiv-business-76db1ecb91d3ff04ec4609740c2283

The Mother Crime: Will Putin Face Prosecution for the Crime of Aggression in Ukraine?
https://theintercept.com/2022/10/08/russia-putin-ukraine-war-crimes-accountability/

Nobel Peace Prize: Documenting Rights Abuses is Vital in Ukraine and Beyond

Ukraine’s Legislative Challenge
https://iwpr.net/global-voices/ukraines-legislative-challenge

RUSSIA/UKRAINE

If Russia breaks the nuclear taboo
Robert Ayson – The Interpreter: 13 October 2022
Would the use of a lower-yield atomic weapon really prompt the same catastrophic logic of escalation?
https://www.lowyinstitute.org/the-interpreter/if-russia-breaks-nuclear-taboo

For more on this theme:

Ukraine’s ‘indirect methods’ help it avoid fighting a war it can’t win with Russia, top British commanders say

After years of being ignored, the countries that know Putin’s Russia the best have been proved totally right
https://www.businessinsider.com/countries-that-warned-about-russia-have-been-vindicated-2022-9

Russia-Ukraine: Lessons from a seven-month war
https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/russia-ukraine-lessons-from-a-seven-month-war-8194360/

Update on Ukraine, With Richard Haass: How Will It End?
https://www.cfr.org/podcasts/update-ukraine-richard-haass-how-will-it-end

Who Are Russia’s War Hawks, and Do They Matter?

Ukraine: Conflict at the Crossroads of Europe and Russia
RUSSIA/UKRAINE

For more on this theme:

**Moral Career: Why Are Russia’s Technocrats Silent on the War?**
https://carnegieendowment.org/politika/88143

**How Close Is Vladimir Putin to Using a Nuclear Bomb?**

**ZNPP: Peaceful Use Verification Obligations**
https://www.armscontrolwonk.com/archive/1216314/znpp-peaceful-use-verification-obligations/

**Strategic Procrastination: What’s Russia’s Game With Nuclear Signaling?**
https://carnegieendowment.org/politika/88130

**From Ally to Mediator: How Russia’s Invasion Has Changed Ukraine-Turkey Relations**
https://carnegieendowment.org/politika/88097

**Putin’s Apocalyptic End Game in Ukraine**
https://www.foreignaffairs.com/russian-federation/putin-apocalyptic-end-game-ukraine

**The symbolic significance of the Crimea bridge attack**

**Impotent Missile Strikes Can’t Reverse Russia’s Losing as Beginning of the End of the War Unfolds**

**Ukrainian Bridges are Playing a Vital Role in Both the Defense and the Offense in the Ukrainian-Russian War**
https://smallwarsjournal.com/jrnl/art/ukrainian-bridges-are-playing-vital-role-both-defense-and-offense-ukrainian-russian-war

**Recent Kremlin Policies Bog Down Russian War Effort (Part One)**
https://jamestown.org/program/recent-kremlin-policies-bog-down-russian-war-effort-part-one/

**Russia ‘Normalizing’ Occupation Regime in Southern Ukraine (Part One)**

**Analysis: Defeats in Ukraine stoke crisis for Vladimir Putin**

**Defining And Achieving Success In Ukraine – Analysis**

**Russia Suffers a Torrent of Battlefield Defeats**
https://cepa.org/article/russia-suffers-a-torrent-of-battlefield-defeats/

**How Russia Learned to Love the Bomb (Too Much)**
RUSSIA/UKRAINE

For more on this theme:

Troubled Bridge Over Stolen Waters
https://cepa.org/article/troubled-bridge-over-stolen-waters/

Call-Up Agitates Russia's Army of Apathy
https://cepa.org/article/call-up-agitates-russias-army-of-aphaty/

Analysis: Russian gas supply gap casts chill in Europe as winter nears

Would Lukashenko really throw Belarus into a war Russia is losing?
https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/oct/12/alexander-lukashenko-belarus-russia-ukraine-war-putin

Ukraine and Moldova move to disarm Vladimir Putin's energy weapon

Russia's terror tactics: Putin escalates attacks on Ukrainian civilian targets
https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/ukrainealert/russias-terror-tactics-putin-escalates-attacks-on-ukrainian-civilian-targets/

Vladimir Putin has little reason to celebrate on his seventieth birthday
https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/ukrainealert/pariah-putin-has-little-reason-to-celebrate-on-his-seventieth-birthday/

Israel’s Tightrope Between Russia And Ukraine — Analysis

Russia appoints new overall commander for its military in Ukraine

‘General Armageddon’: Who Is The Brutal Russian Commander Charged With Winning The Ukraine War?
https://www.rferl.org/a/russia-brutal-general-ukraine-war-commander-surovikin/32075971.html

U.S. accuses Russia of exploiting Africa resources to fund Ukraine war

Can China De-Escalate A Nuclear Crisis Over Ukraine? Will It? — Analysis
https://www.eurasiareview.com/09102022-can-china-de-escalate-a-nuclear-crisis-over-ukraine-will-it-analysis/

Analysis: Russia’s mobilisation may stymie economic recovery

Russian hacking group targets state-government websites in DDoS campaign
RUSSIA/UKRAINE

For more on this theme:

Morale is plummeting in Putin's private army as Russia's war in Ukraine falters

The Fight to Cut Off the Crypto Fueling Russia’s Ukraine Invasion
https://www.wired.com/story/russia-ukraine-cryptocurrency-funding/

Ukraine war fallout: Is Russia losing influence in Central Asia?

Russia-Ukraine War: China Weighs What Benefits Beijing The Most

Who is supplying Russia with drones?

Domestic dissent: The new front in Russia's information war

Russian media confronts new problem: Reality

Ukraine takes on Russia in the battle for hearts and minds in Africa

How Ukraine's advances are cornering Putin, making the war more dangerous
https://thehill.com/policy/international/3676711-how-ukraines-advances-are-cornering-putin-making-the-war-more-dangerous/

Should Europe shelter Russians fleeing mobilisation?

Ukraine war: why the world can't afford to let Russia get away with its land grab — lessons from history

The War in Ukraine Is Decimating Russia’s Asian Minorities
https://thediplomat.com/2022/10/the-war-in-ukraine-is-decimating-russias-asian-minorities/