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COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

A corruption scandal has added a dark footnote to the Tokyo Olympics
Anthony Kuhn – NPR: 29 October 2022
The ignominy ensnared a powerful Games organizer and the corporate sponsors accused of bribing him.
https://www.npr.org/2022/10/29/1132598103/a-corruption-scandal-has-added-a-dark-footnote-to-the-tokyo-olympics

Malawians Protest High Cost of Living, Alleged Corruption
Lameck Masina – Voice of America: 27 October 2022
In the demonstration, protesters and opposition supporters chanted and marched in Malawi’s commercial capital, Blantyre.

For more on this theme:

Pakistan Disqualifies Ex-PM Khan From Politics on Corruption Charges

Ecuador Energy Minister Xavier Vera resigns amid corruption investigation

Zahid’s Akalbudi corruption trial to resume in January

South Africa’s Former Electricity Boss Charged With Corruption

Saudi university head admits to embezzling over $133 million in corruption case

IMF asks Pakistan to set up anti-corruption task force

Croatia’s PM under pressure to resign after ex-ministers charged for corruption

Belarus Corruption Watch: How two businessmen made billions from the “solvents scheme”
DRUG TRAFFICKING

How the Taliban’s incompetence is fuelling the Middle East’s drug trade
The National: 2 November 2022

The group has banned opium cultivation — but since it seized power, production and profits have gone up.
https://www.thenationalnews.com/opinion/editorial/2022/11/03/how-the-talibans-incompetence-is-fuell-ing-the-middle-east-drug-trade/

Captagon Connection: How Syria Became A Narco State
Rouba El Husseini and Jean Marc Mojon – Agence France-Presse: 2 November 2022

A decade of appalling civil war has left Syria fragmented and in ruins but one thing crosses every front line: a drug called Captagon. The stimulant has spawned an illegal $10 billion industry that not only props up the pariah regime of President Bashar al-Assad, but also many of his enemies.

For more on this theme:

India Seeing Spike in Drug Smuggling Using Crypto, Home Minister Says

Vietnam, Laos remain hot spots for Golden Triangle drug trade

Hong Kong makes biggest ever meth seizure, worth more than $100m

Brazil: Federal Police Dismantles International Narcotrafficking Organization

Myths about fentanyl persist as opioid continues to cause overdose deaths

Opium cultivation soars in Afghanistan after Taliban takeover

How Drug Trafficking Methods Have Evolved to Supply America With Cocaine
https://www.legalreader.com/how-drug-trafficking-methods-have-evolved-to-supply-america-with-cocaine/

Yaba smuggling: Drug dealers turn to new tactics to dodge police
TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

Ecuador Illegal Fishermen Target Sardines, Anchovies Amid Fishmeal Boom
Gabrielle Gorder – InSight Crime: 27 October 2022

Illegal fishing vessels are increasingly harvesting smaller marine species in response to rising global demand for fish meal, risking significant environmental and economic disruption by targeting the lower levels of the food chain.


China plays an outsized role in transnational crime, illicit financial flows mirroring its growth as an international superpower
Global Financial Integrity: 2 November 2022

A report from Global Financial Integrity scrutinizes the People’s Republic of China’s relationship to the drug trade, counterfeiting/IP theft, and human and wildlife trafficking.


For more on this theme:

Europe’s energy crisis: Wood industry booms before winter of discontent

Destruction of the Amazon: What you need to know

How an Indigenous family under siege became a symbol of resistance in the Amazon

Panama: A ‘flag of convenience’ for illegal fishing and lack of control at sea

To Stop Illegal Fishing, Send a Seabird
https://nautil.us/to-stop-illegal-fishing-send-a-seabird-242630/

New plan of action to combat illegal wildlife trade in Central Africa

Criminal Groups Destroy Peruvian Amazon, Study Shows
https://dialogo-americas.com/articles/criminal-groups-destroy-peruvian-amazon-study-shows/

Survey finds thriving online market for Indonesian birds in Philippines
https://news.mongabay.com/2022/10/survey-finds-thriving-online-market-for-indonesian-birds-in-philippines/

Behind the colorful tropical fish trade loom perilous practices
PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

INTERNET GOVERNANCE

The Election That Saved the Internet From Russia and China
Justin Ling – Wired: 20 October 2022
Advocates of an open internet are breathing a sigh of relief after a recent election for the International Telecommunications Union’s leadership.

For more on this theme:
(Global) How Web3 internet design could lead to a more sustainable world
https://europeansting.com/2022/10/18/how-web3-internet-design-could-lead-to-a-more-sustainable-world/
(EU) EU seeks to ‘seize the opportunity’ of data economy
(Global) Cybernorms for a democratic internet
https://www.orfonline.org/expert-speak/cybernorms-for-a-democratic-internet/

INTERNET FREEDOM

Human rights violation worsens in Africa as governments use ‘kill-switch’, enforce internet censorship
Sikiru Obarayese – Daily Post: 22 October 2022
Nigeria saw the sharpest drop in internet freedom in 2021 while Burkina Faso, Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe faced the worst conditions for fettered online access and speech.

For more on this theme:
(Global) Meet the watchdogs guarding internet access
https://share.america.gov/meet-watchdogs-guarding-internet-access/
(China) On China’s internet, only plaudits for the party and Xi
(Iran) Countering Iran’s Brand of Digital Authoritarianism
https://www.justsecurity.org/83633/countering-irans-brand-of-digital-authoritarianism/
(Vietnam) Vietnam ranked world’s fifth worst country for internet freedom
Southeast Asia’s Data Localization Push Is a Double-Edged Sword
Xirui Li – The Diplomat: 28 October 2022
The policy could stimulate the growth of regional data centers while also throwing up barriers to digital trade.

For more on this theme:
(China) China’s high-tech surveillance drives oppression of Uyghurs
https://thebulletin.org/2022/10/chinas-high-tech-surveillance-drives-oppression-of-uyghurs/

(GLOBAL) Cyber-politics meets the statecraft game

(GLOBAL) The intersection of tech and diplomacy: Global collaboration on emerging technologies

Cyber-attack on Australian defence contractor may have exposed private communications between ADF members
Nino Bucci – The Guardian: 31 October 2022
Data from communications platform ForceNet containing up to 40,000 records may be compromised after breach on external provider.
https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2022/oct/31/cyber-attack-on-australian-defence-contractor-may-have-exposed-private-communications-between-adf-members

For more on this theme:
(Europe) Aurubis says it was hit in wider cyberattack on metals industry

(Australia) Medibank cyber-attack: should the health insurer pay a ransom for its customers’ data?

(U.S., Russia) U.S. Treasury thwarted attack by Russian hacker group last month — official

(Slovakia, Poland) A massive cyberattack hit Slovak and Polish Parliaments
https://securityaffairs.co/wordpress/137777/hacking/slovak-polish-parliaments-cyberattacks.html
CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING

Beyond supply and demand: Addressing the multidimensional workforce gaps in cybersecurity
Mamello Thinyane, Debora Christine and Keith Detros – The World Economic Forum: 21 October 2022

The global shortfall between supply and demand for cybersecurity professionals was estimated at 2.72 million in 2021. This is a notable improvement from 2020, where the need was estimated to be 3.12 million workers.

https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2022/10/cybersecurity-workforce-gaps-inclusive-approach-jobs/

For more on this theme:
(Philippines) Experts push fresh initiatives to boost Philippines’s cybersecurity posture

(Australia) Australia’s Recent Cyberattacks to Shape Laws, Regulations and Risk Management

(Australia) Analysis: In Australia, a hacking frenzy spurred by an undersized cybersecurity workforce

CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION

Germany’s critical infrastructure is poorly protected
Jens Thurau – Deutsche Welle: 25 October 2022

The recent sabotage of the German rail network proved once again the vulnerability of the country’s critical infrastructure.


For more on this theme:
(EU) EU seeks to boost infrastructure protection after Nord Stream blasts

(U.S.) The Emerging Cyber Threat to the American Rail Industry
https://www.lawfareblog.com/emerging-cyber-threat-american-rail-industry

(U.S.) Critical Infrastructure Protection: Additional Federal Coordination Is Needed to Enhance K-12 Cybersecurity
PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

ISIS AND FOREIGN FIGHTERS

**U.S. targets weapons trafficking with sanctions on Islamic State in Somalia**
*Daphne Psaledakis – Reuters: 2 November 2022*

The United States accused the Islamic State group and others of being involved in a “terrorist weapons trafficking network” in Eastern Africa.


**Rights Group Says Hundreds Massacred in Mali by Islamic State Jihadists**
*Agence France-Presse: 28 October 2022*

Armed groups affiliated with the Islamic State group have carried out the attacks in northeast Mali this year, Human Rights Watch said, adding the state was not doing enough to protect civilians.


For more on this theme:

**Australia repatriates families of ISIS fighters from Syria**

**Kansas woman who led all-female ISIS battalion sentenced to 20 years in prison**

**Women repatriated from ISIS camps should be offered rehabilitation, not punishment: professor**
[https://www.cbc.ca/radio/thecurrent/repatriation-canadian-women-isis-1.6631809](https://www.cbc.ca/radio/thecurrent/repatriation-canadian-women-isis-1.6631809)

**In the Shadow of Daesh: An ethnography of ISIS atrocities**
[https://english.alaraby.co.uk/features/shadow-daesh-ethnography-isis-atrocities](https://english.alaraby.co.uk/features/shadow-daesh-ethnography-isis-atrocities)

**Netherlands to repatriate 40 ISIS-linked women and children from Syrian camps**

**Attack on Taliban vehicle carrying military employees kills five in Afghanistan, Islamic State claims responsibility**

**Fighters in Syria’s Daraa ready for anti-Islamic State operations**

**Iraq announces arrest of ‘IS leader’ in Kirkuk governorate**
A New Approach is Needed to Deal With Islamist Terrorist Prisoners
Ian Acheson – European Eye on Radicalization: 20 October 2022

Belgium, France, Spain and the United Kingdom carry most of the inmate burden in Europe. Between them, there are more than 1,000 violent extremists scattered in dozens of jails – some housed near others susceptible to their toxic ideologies.

https://eeradicalization.com/a-new-approach-is-needed-to-deal-with-islamist-terrorist-prisoners/

For more on this theme:

Playing Against Radicalisation: Why Extremists are Gaming and How P/CVE Can Leverage the Positive Effects of Video Games to Prevent Radicalisation

Radicalized on the Net? Albanian Plumber Charged With ‘Jihadist Propaganda’

Barriers to the Successful Implementation of P/CVE Programs in Africa

The Role of Online Communities in the Expansion of Far-Right Extremism
https://eeradicalization.com/online-far-right-extremism-report-mariana-diaz-garcia/

Terror In Slovakia: Putting A Spotlight On The Far Right
https://theowp.org/reports/terror-in-slovakia-putting-a-spotlight-on-the-far-right/

India: Creeping Radicalization – Analysis
https://www.eurasiareview.com/01112022-india-creeping-radicalization-analysis/

UK Prevent programme ‘must reach big mosques to stop radicalisation of youngsters’

‘Sahi Rasta’ initiative turning radicalised youth into Army aspirants in J-K
TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD
As terrorists claim new ground, an African strategy is vital
Institute for Security Studies: 31 October 2022
Global terror groups have set their sights on the continent, making a common African Union-led approach an urgent matter.
https://issafrica.org/iss-today/as-terrorists-claim-new-ground-an-african-strategy-is-vital

UN counter-terrorism body backs innovations to fight digital terror
Modern Diplomacy: 28 October 2022
The growing threat to global security posed by emerging technologies was the focus of a meeting of the U.N. Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee in India. Terrorists are exploiting social media, mobile payment systems, 3D printing and other technological developments.

For more on this theme:
Will Hay’at Tahrir al-Sham reshape Syria’s north?
https://english.alaraby.co.uk/analysis/will-hayat-tahrir-al-sham-reshape-syrias-north
Afghanistan Is Losing Faith in the Taliban
https://www.fairobserver.com/politics/afghanistan-is-losing-faith-in-the-taliban/
Who Is Shahid Mahmood and Why Has India Sought His Designation As a Terrorist?
Sheikh Yusuf al-Qaradawi and his impact on the dissemination of radical Islam
Experts Weigh in on Regional Impact of Syria-Hamas Rapprochement
Pakistan: Growing Militant Attacks Linked to Taliban Takeover of Afghanistan
The Evolution of Critical Infrastructure Targeting by Violent Extremists
https://www.lawfareblog.com/evolution-critical-infrastructure-targeting-violent-extremists
Security Council counter-terrorism body to review growing threat posed by new technologies
IntelBrief: The Evolution of the Online Violent Extremist Landscape
RUSSIA/UKRAINE

New Commander, New Goals for Russia in Ukraine
Vladimir Frolov – Carnegie: 1 November 2022

The state-of-emergency laws introduced by the Kremlin in October aim to provide a strategic defense of “captured objectives” rather than all-out war.
https://carnegieendowment.org/politika/88301

For more on this theme:
Abkhazia Rejects Putin’s Mobilization
https://jamestown.org/program/abkhazia-rejects-putins-mobilization/

Russia’s Surveillance State
https://cepa.org/article/russias-surveillance-state/

The Larger Geopolitical Shift Behind Iran’s Drone Sales to Russia
https://carnegieendowment.org/2022/10/26/larger-geopolitical-shift-behind-iran-s-drone-sales-to-russia-
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Nuclear injustice: How Russia’s invasion of Ukraine shows the staggering human cost of deterrence
https://thebulletin.org/2022/10/nuclear-injustice-how-russias-invasion-of-ukraine-shows-the-staggering-hu-
man-cost-of-deterrence/#post-heading

How Martial Law Will Change the Workings of the Russian Government
https://carnegieendowment.org/politika/88250

Takeaway from Berlin Ukraine recovery conference: Donor coordination for Ukraine is coming but not here yet
https://www.brookings.edu/blog/up-front/2022/10/27/takeaway-from-berlin-ukraine-recovery-conference-do-
nor-coordination-for-ukraine-is-coming-but-not-here-yet/

Inside a US military cyber team’s defence of Ukraine

Russian Strikes Hit Ukraine, Most of Kyiv Without Water

The war in Ukraine: implications for Asia
https://www.lowyinstitute.org/the-interpreter/war-ukraine-implications-asia

Ukraine is the Modern-Day Sparta
https://smallwarsjournal.com/jrn/art/ukraine-modern-day-sparta

Russia’s Vast Cyber Web Enables Deniability and Obscurity — But Not Without Risks

IntelBrief: Iran’s Repression and Alignment with Russia Carry Costs
RUSSIA/UKRAINE

For more on this theme:

Russia recruiting US-trained Afghan commandos for Ukraine: Report

India's Russian arms imbroglio

Russia must be humbled

UN chief warmly welcomes Russia decision to end suspension from Ukraine grain deal

In the battle for Kherson, Ukrainian infantry officers say don't underestimate Russia
https://www.npr.org/2022/10/28/1132163400/ukraine-war-kherson-battle-russia

Austin: Talks With Russia Important to Avoid Escalation in Ukraine

Russia's War in Ukraine Could Jeopardize Antarctic Wildlife
https://time.com/6225638/antarctic-wildlife-russia-war-ukraine/

UK intel says Russia is rushing reserve troops into battle with 'barely usable' rifles, creating a new kind of headache for Putin's generals

Ukraine conflict, sanctions set to blow hole in Russia's finances

Russia-Ukraine war: The rise of Iran's drone industry
https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/russia-ukraine-war-iran-drone-industry-rise

Russia Continues Attacks on Ukraine Civilian Targets
https://www.defense.gov/News/News-Stories/Article/Article/3205450/russia-continues-attacks-on-ukraine-civilian-targets/

Water as weapon, and casualty, in Russia's war on Ukraine

Hundreds of Journalists Have Fled Russia Since Start of Ukraine War

Russia's Tear Gas Bombings In Ukraine May Be First Step In Dangerous Chemical Escalation
RUSSIA/UKRAINE

For more on this theme:

What the Russia-Ukraine war has revealed about crypto

Global Food Prices Rise with Ukraine-Russia Agreement in Doubt

Diminishing Returns: Russia’s Waning Sphere of Influence Amid the Russo-Ukrainian War
https://georgetownsecuritystudiesreview.org/2022/10/31/diminishing-returns-russias-waning-sphere-of-influence-amid-the-russo-ukrainian-war/

‘Not treated like humans’: Ukrainian women on Russian captivity

More Than 70,000 Russians Killed As War Approaches Day 250: Ukraine
https://www.newsweek.com/more-70000-russians-killed-war-approaches-day-250-ukraine-1755617

Ukrainians use phone app to spot deadly Russian drone attacks

Ukraine war: The wives left behind by Russian deserters

Ukraine’s intel chief says Russia is conducting a psychological operation

Russia’s winter war will be an economic war on Ukraine — analysis
https://www.jpost.com/international/article-721009

Russia’s Ukraine invasion will hasten the shift to clean energy, International Energy Agency forecasts

Is North Korea Aligning Itself With Putin Against Ukraine?

Will Ukraine deploy lethal autonomous drones against Russia?

The Rebirth Of The Russia-North Korea Alliance – Analysis

How the Ukraine war is impacting Russia’s arms sales to the Middle East
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Russia — The World Hates Us
https://cepa.org/article/russia-the-world-hates-us/
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For more on this theme:

Kremlin Must Loosen its Grip for Russia to Survive

The Siege That Still Scars Russia
https://cepa.org/article/the-siege-that-still-scars-russia/

Russia's Costly War Saps its Regions
https://cepa.org/article/russias-costly-war-saps-its-regions/

Foreign Outreach Belies Putin’s Nuclear Threats
https://cepa.org/article/foreign-outreach-belies-putins-nuclear-threats/

Russia’s Garbled Nuclear Missile Message
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Ukraine Symposium — Are Civilians Reporting With Cell Phones Directly Participating in Hostilities?
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Ukraine Symposium — Doxing Enemy Soldiers and the Law of War
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Near The Front, Ukraine’s Drone Pilots Wage A Modern War On A Shoestring Budget
https://www.rferl.org/a/ukraine-drone-pilots-modern-war-shoestring-budget/32108994.html

Ukraine recap: the approach of ‘General Winter’ and what it means for the conflict

War’s Gendered Costs: The Story of Ukraine’s Women
https://www.orfonline.org/research/wars-gendered-costs/

Ukraine's Uncertain Path to the EU

Infantilism and Sacrifice: Why Russians Go to War Even When They Disagree With It

Ukraine’s and Chechnya's Veteran Anti-Russian Movements Signal Mutual Support

The Kremlin's Economic Mobilization
https://jamestown.org/program/the-kremlins-economic-mobilization/

Moscow Alarmed by Program Growing Non-Russian Nationalism and Ukraine’s Role in It