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# A CURRENT AWARENESS SERVICE FROM THE MARSHALL CENTER

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# COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

# CORRUPTION

#### **Reconstructing Ukraine: Context-tailored approaches to corruption**

Katherine D. Wilkins – Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime: 30 October 2023

The misuse of government resources for personal benefit will remain a significant governance issue in Ukraine even after the war, hindering the country's reconstruction.

https://globalinitiative.net/analysis/ukraine-conflict-reconstruction-corruption-risk/

#### France demands EU corruption-busting watchdog with teeth

Jakob Hanke Vela and Claudia Chiappa – Politico: 31 October 2023

France wants the European Union to create an independent watchdog to fight corruption in member institutions, which have been rattled by ongoing scandals.

https://www.politico.eu/article/france-demands-eu-corruption-busting-watchdog-with-teeth/

#### For more on this theme:

#### PNG to investigate corruption claims in Australia-funded refugee program

https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/oct/31/png-corruption-claims-investigation-australia-funded-refugee-program-papua-new-guinea

#### Nigeria's counsel cleared of corruption in mega-case

https://globalarbitrationreview.com/article/nigerias-counsel-cleared-of-corruption-in-mega-case

#### Sri Lanka's sports minister accuses top cricket administrators of corruption

https://www.wionews.com/sports/sri-lankas-sports-minister-accuses-top-cricket-administrators-of-corruption-652360

#### Poll: Besides war, Ukrainians most concerned about corruption

https://kyivindependent.com/poll-besides-war-ukrainians-most-concerned-about-corruption/

# A Thankless Job: Exposing Official Corruption in Lebanon

https://www.geopoliticalmonitor.com/a-thankless-job-exposing-official-corruption-in-lebanon/

### More than 80% of Australians believe pork barrelling is a form of corruption

https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2023/oct/24/australians-believe-pork-barrelling-corruption-federal-government-australia-institute-survey

### Ukraine's top prosecutor vows to meet key EU membership conditions within months

https://www.politico.eu/article/andrii-kostyn-ukraine-top-prosecutor-vows-to-meet-key-eu-membership-conditions-within-months/

# EFCC stampeded by politicians, emasculated by judiciary: How Nigeria's losing corruption war

https://www.vanguardngr.com/2023/10/efcc-stampeded-by-politicians-emasculated-by-judiciary-how-nige-rias-losing-corruption-war/

#### Iranian Man Faces Ordeal for Exposing Officials' Corruption

https://iranwire.com/en/prisoners/121686-iranian-man-faces-ordeal-for-exposing-officials-corruption/

# DRUG TRAFFICKING

# US government says it plans to go after legal goods tied to illegal fentanyl trade in new strategy

Julie Watson – The Associated Press: 26 October 2023

U.S. Customs and Border Protection announced a strategy that will target not only the synthetic opioid but also precursor materials used to make it.

https://apnews.com/article/fentanyl-drugs-china-mexico-california-border-protection-c6cc5a-768c7e273228639004805058e0

#### For more on this theme:

#### Marseille's drug wars: Rival gangs behind recent flare-up in violence

https://www.france24.com/en/tv-shows/focus/20231024-marseille-s-drug-wars-rival-gangs-behind-recent-flare-up-in-violence

# Most in new poll see Mexico as partner in stopping drug trafficking, illegal border crossings

https://thehill.com/latino/4264640-most-in-new-poll-see-mexico-as-partner-in-stopping-drug-trafficking-illegal-border-crossings/

### Like Escobar, Ecuador's drug lords build 'narco-zoos'

https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20231020-like-escobar-ecuador-s-drug-lords-build-narco-zoos

# **Unraveling Covert Networks: Analysis of Mexican Cartel Alliances**

https://www.bakerinstitute.org/research/unraveling-covert-networks-analysis-mexican-cartel-alliances

#### Brazil: Cocaine Exports from Santos Port at All-Time High

https://dialogo-americas.com/articles/brazil-cocaine-exports-from-santos-port-at-all-time-high/

#### San Francisco Drug Dealers Could Face Murder Charges for Overdose Deaths

https://sfstandard.com/2023/10/27/san-francisco-drug-dealers-murder-charges-overdoses/

# **Canadian Drugs and Substances Strategy**

https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2023/10/canadian-drugs-and-substances-strategy.html

# Making A Killing: The Chinese Mafia Transforming the Global Drug Trade

https://video.vice.com/en\_us/video/making-a-killing-the-chinese-mafia-transforming-the-glob-al-drug-trade/63bc8fc2998d95260906c99f

#### How Drug Cartels Transformed Ecuador Into a 'Narco State'

https://www.bloomberg.com/news/features/2023-10-31/ecuador-political-instability-fueled-by-rise-of-drug-cartels#xj4y7vzkg

#### China Uses Fentanyl for War With US by Other Means

https://www.bloomberg.com/opinion/articles/2023-10-26/china-sees-fentanyl-as-war-with-us-by-other-means

#### **Coastal Waters Turning into 'World's Biggest Transnational Crime Scene'**

https://adf-magazine.com/2023/10/coastal-waters-turning-into-worlds-biggest-transnational-crime-scene/

# TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

Wildlife trafficking, organised crime linked: Nonprofit's report sheds new light Himanshu Nitnaware – Down To Earth: 31 October 2023

A report by the Wildlife Justice Commission finds new evidence for the convergence of wildlife crime with other forms of illegal activity.

https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/world/wildlife-trafficking-organised-crime-linked-nonprofit-s-report-sheds-new-light-92572

#### **Q&A: How Sand Trafficking in Brazil Became a Highly Lucrative Crime**

Chris Dalby – InSight Crime: 30 October 2023

Authorities have launched a series of operations targeting illegal sand extraction as part of a renewed commitment to fighting environmental crimes.

https://insightcrime.org/news/sand-trafficking-brazil-lucrative-crime/

For more on this theme:

#### Illegal Harvesting Suspected in 75% of Exclusive Hardwood

https://www.miragenews.com/illegal-harvesting-suspected-in-75-of-exclusive-1111296/

**Reclaiming Land Stolen In Heart Of Guatemalan Reserve** 

https://www.barrons.com/news/reclaiming-land-stolen-in-heart-of-guatemalan-reserve-c5856690

#### New satellite readings show full extent of mining in the Amazon Rainforest

https://news.mongabay.com/2023/10/new-satellite-readings-show-full-extent-of-mining-in-the-amazon-rainforest/

# Why Native Women's Voices Are Crucial to Saving Brazil's Forests

https://e360.yale.edu/features/cristiane-juliao-interview

#### NOAA Report Singles out China for Illegal Fishing

https://dialogo-americas.com/articles/noaa-report-singles-out-china-for-illegal-fishing/

# U.S. Coast Guard Sets Up Anti-Illegal Fishing Center for Indo-Pacific

https://maritime-executive.com/article/u-s-coast-guard-sets-up-anti-illegal-fishing-center-for-indo-pacific

#### Trafficked wildlife find safe haven in US zoos

https://www.reuters.com/business/environment/trafficked-wildlife-find-safe-haven-us-zoos-2023-10-31/

#### Successful detection rises in effort to stamp out wildlife smuggled in the mail

https://www.traffic.org/news/successful-detection-rises-in-effort-to-stamp-out-wildlife-smuggled-in-the-mail/

#### Hidden in plain sight: Counting the cost of environmental crime

https://globalinitiative.net/analysis/hidden-in-plain-sight-environmental-crime/

# China: Tree-Planting at Home, Logging Abroad?

https://www.voanews.com/a/china-congo-tree-planting-at-home-logging-abroad/7334547.html

# **PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)**

# INTERNET GOVERNANCE

#### African Digital Futures NGPF African Futures: October 2023

These 11 stories offer different visions of tomorrow's digital Africa.

https://digitalfutures.nextgenforesight.org/

# For more on this theme:

# (Global) Let the community work it out: A throwback to early internet days could fix social media's crisis of legitimacy

https://www.niemanlab.org/2023/10/let-the-community-work-it-out-a-throwback-to-early-internet-days-could-fix-social-medias-crisis-of-legitimacy/

# (Africa) Digital pervasiveness and divisiveness: The role of African governments in enabling healthy digital futures

https://mg.co.za/africa/2023-10-20-digital-pervasiveness-and-divisiveness-the-role-of-african-governments-in-enabling-healthy-digital-futures/

# CYBER STRATEGY AND RISKS

# The impact of artificial intelligence on cyber offence and defence

Jason Healey – The Strategist: 18 October 2023

To make cyberspace more defensible – a goal championed by Columbia University and called for in the 2023 U.S. National Cybersecurity Strategy – innovations must not just strengthen defenses, but also give a sustained advantage to defenders relative to attackers.

https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/the-impact-of-artificial-intelligence-on-cyber-offence-and-defence/

For more on this theme:

#### (UK) TechScape: How the UK's online safety bill aims to clean up the internet

https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2023/oct/24/techscape-uk-online-safety-bill-clean-up-internet

#### (U.S.) How the US DOD Cyber Strategy changes national cyber defense

https://www.csoonline.com/article/655937/how-the-us-dod-cyber-strategy-changes-national-cyber-de-fense.html

#### (Global) Podcast: How cyber diplomacy is protecting the world from online threats

https://www.gzeromedia.com/global-stage/podcasts/how-cyber-diplomacy-protecting-world-from-on-line-threats

# CYBERATTACKS

Major Mexican airport confirms experts are working to address cyberattack Jonathan Greig – The Record: 1 November 2023

Querétaro Intercontinental Airport officials said the attack was traced to an employee who downloaded a file containing malware.

https://therecord.media/queretaro-international-airport-mexico-cyberattack

#### For more on this theme:

#### (Global) Fighting Cyberattacks Requires Top-Down Approach

https://www.ai-cio.com/news/fighting-cyberattacks-requires-top-down-approach/

(Global) Intimidation, Cyberattacks, Challenges Will Not Stop International Criminal Court from Fulfilling Its Mandate, Says President, as General Assembly Takes Up Report https://press.un.org/en/2023/ga12549.doc.htm

(Canada) Investigation ongoing, but no firm timeline for restoration, in cyberattack affecting 5 hospitals

https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/windsor/cyber-attack-transform-update-1.7010669

(U.S.) Ace holed: Hardware store empire felled by cyberattack

https://www.theregister.com/2023/10/31/ace\_hardware\_cyberattack/

# CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING

# When digital infrastructure and digital literacy do not go hand in hand: Bolivia's digital divide

Roxana Baspineiro – Equal Times: 23 October 2023

For at least two-thirds of the world's population, internet access remains out of reach, especially in countries in the Global South, according to the United Nations.

https://www.equaltimes.org/when-digital-infrastructure-and

For more on this theme:

(Canada) Inaction is perpetuating Canada's digital divide

https://www.hilltimes.com/story/2023/10/25/inaction-is-perpetuating-canadas-digital-divide/400626/ (Philippines) Philippine Military to Create 'Cyber Command' to Combat Online Attacks https://thediplomat.com/2023/10/philippine-military-to-create-cyber-command-to-combat-online-attacks/

(Israel) AI-Powered Israeli 'Cyber Dome' Defense Operation Comes to Life

https://www.darkreading.com/dr-global/ai-powered-israeli-cyber-dome-defense-operation-comes-to-life

# CYBERCRIME

## China crackdown on cyber scams in Southeast Asia nets thousands but leaves networks intact

Huizhong Wu – The Associated Press: 23 October 2023

When scam operations are shut down in one place they often resurface elsewhere.

https://apnews.com/article/china-southeast-asia-cyberscam-criminal-myanmar-4d749243c-d4c95d697060d8cef59cabb

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#### (Global) Urgent Global Response Needed for "Insidious" Cybercrime

https://www.hstoday.us/subject-matter-areas/cybersecurity/urgent-global-response-needed-for-insidious-cybercrime/

#### (U.S., Global) Cost of a data breach: The evolving role of law enforcement

https://securityintelligence.com/articles/cost-of-a-data-breach-the-evolving-role-of-law-enforcement/

#### (Global) It's Time to Establish the NATO of Cybersecurity

https://www.darkreading.com/attacks-breaches/its-time-to-establish-the-nato-of-cybersecurity

# CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION

# The generative AI wave is inevitable — what should critical information infrastructure owners do?

GovInside: 24 October 2023

Cybersecurity leaders will have to be at the forefront when organizations implement the use of models such as ChatGPT, said speakers at an event held in part by the Association for Information Security Professionals.

https://govinsider.asia/intl-en/article/the-generative-ai-wave-is-inevitable-what-should-critical-information-infrastructure-owners-do

For more on this theme:

#### (U.S.) Feds: Beware AvosLocker ransomware attacks on critical infrastructure

https://urgentcomm.com/2023/10/20/feds-beware-avoslocker-ransomware-attacks-on-critical-infra-structure/

# (U.S.) Cybersecurity regulations for passenger and freight railroads renewed by TSA

https://therecord.media/tsa-renews-cybersecurity-regulations-passenger-freight-railroads

(Australia) Australia Focuses on Threat of Chinese Attack on Solar Power

https://www.bankinfosecurity.com/australia-focuses-on-threat-chinese-attack-on-solar-power-a-23395

# (Africa, Global) Africa's governments must help protect subsea cable infrastructure for better cyber defense

http://www.sun.ac.za/english/Lists/news/DispForm.aspx?ID=10254



# **PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)**

# ISIS AND FOREIGN FIGHTERS

# Syria's Ticking Time Bomb – The Kurds, Turkey and ISIS

Deutsche Welle: 31 October 2023

Is the world facing a resurgence of the Islamic State group?

https://www.dw.com/en/syrias-ticking-time-bomb-the-kurds-turkey-and-isis/a-67056186

#### For more on this theme:

# Ugandan Soldiers Among Dead in IS-Backed Attack in DR Congo

https://www.voanews.com/a/ugandan-soldiers-among-dead-in-is-backed-attack-in-dr-congo-/7331584. html

### Uganda army says it attacked rebels that murdered honeymooning tourists

https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/uganda-army-says-it-killed-rebels-that-murdered-honeymooning-tourists-2023-11-01/

# Islamic State Claims Responsibility For Deadly Kabul Blast

https://www.rferl.org/a/afghanistan-explosion-kabul-shi-ite-neighborhood-killed-injured/32655512.html

#### IS group-linked militants kill 17 in Nigeria for failing to pay 'cattle tax'

 $https://www.france24.com/en/africa/20231101\cite{times}-in-raid-on-remote-village-in-raid-on-remote-village-in-northeast-nigeria} for the set of the set$ 

#### Turkish police arrest 28 Daesh/ISIS terror suspects

https://www.aa.com.tr/en/turkiye/turkish-police-arrest-28-daesh-isis-terror-suspects/3034524

#### Indonesia says arrests militants suspected of plotting to disrupt election

https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/indonesia-says-arrests-militants-suspected-plotting-disrupt-election-2023-10-31/

# Islamic State in Iraq and Syria Is Why a Small Number of U.S. Troops Are in Iraq and Syria

https://www.nationalreview.com/corner/the-islamic-state-in-iraq-syria-is-why-a-small-number-of-u-s-troops-are-in-iraq-syria/

#### Islamic State Mozambique (ISM)

https://acleddata.com/2023/10/30/actor-profile-islamic-state-mozambique-ism/

# Gaza's global narrative and int'l security

https://jordantimes.com/opinion/amer-al-sabaileh/gazas-global-narrative-and-intl-security

# TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

Wray warns of increased terrorist threat, says U.S. is in a 'dangerous period' Ryan Lucas – NPR: 31 October 2023

FBI Director Christopher Wray says the war between Israel and Hamas has led to a spike in threats against the United States as terrorist groups look to leverage the conflict for their own causes.

https://www.npr.org/2023/10/31/1209699057/wray-warns-of-increased-terrorist-threat-says-u-s-is-in-a-dangerous-period

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### Six steps to disrupt Hamas and other terrorist groups' finances

https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/new-atlanticist/six-steps-to-disrupt-hamas-and-other-terrorist-groups-finances/

# Europol director says Islamist terrorism remains the biggest terror threat to Western Europe

https://abcnews.go.com/US/europol-director-islamist-terrorism-remains-biggest-terror-threat/sto-ry?id=104100812

# Lone wolf terrorists in Europe are not so lonely anymore — who is radicalising and recruiting them?

https://www.euronews.com/2023/10/26/lone-wolf-terrorists-in-europe-are-not-so-lonely-anymore-who-is-radicalising-and-recruitin

#### After Brussels attack, Swedes fear becoming a target for terrorists

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#### FinCEN Targets Crypto Mixers in Fight against Terrorist Financing

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#### Morocco Warns of Link Between Terrorists, Criminal Groups and Separatists

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# Locking Down Violence: The COVID-19 Pandemic's Impact on Non-State Actor Violence

https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/american-political-science-review/article/locking-down-violence-the-covid19-pandemics-impact-on-nonstate-actor-violence/19073EF1BC0873E1D614A34F6B-D1365C

# Profiles of 15 Iranian-Backed Militias in the Middle East

https://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2023/10/profiles-of-15-iranian-backed-militias-in-the-middle-east.php

# Shabaab claims several al-Qaeda leaders present during infamous 'Black Hawk Down' incident

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#### Will the Israel-Hamas War Spiral into a Wider Conflict?

Mona Yacoubian – United States Institute of Peace: 26 October 2023

Iran's direct involvement in the war is a nightmare scenario that would spawn a regional conflagration.

https://www.usip.org/publications/2023/10/will-israel-hamas-war-spiral-wider-conflict

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### Hezbollah's Precision Threat to Israel

https://www.lawfaremedia.org/article/hezbollah-s-precision-threat-to-israel

#### Hamas global jihad – An impact in France?

https://www.icct.nl/publication/hamas-global-jihad-impact-france

#### What China Wants in the Middle East

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Videos of Hamas attack suggest a chilling evolution of jihadist tactics

https://www.nbcnews.com/news/investigations/videos-hamas-attack-suggest-jihadism-evolved-chilling-new-ways-rcna122564

#### The Oct. 7 Massacre Revealed a New Hamas Social Media Strategy

https://time.com/6330005/the-oct-7-massacre-revealed-a-new-hamas-social-media-strategy/

#### Gaza and Global Jihad

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#### How Hamas innovated with drones to operate like an army

https://thebulletin.org/2023/11/how-hamas-innovated-with-drones-to-operate-like-an-army/

#### Experts Skeptical of Macron-Proposed Global Coalition to Combat Hamas

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#### Some Hamas killers were high on amphetamine, officials say

https://www.semafor.com/article/10/31/2023/hamas-killers-were-high-on-amphetamine-officials-say

### How Qatar is at the centre of Israeli hostage talks

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## Between Swords of Iron and the Al Aqsa Deluge: The Regional Politics of the Israel-Hamas War

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#### Iran and the 'Axis of Resistance' Vastly Improved Hamas's Operational Capabilities

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#### The Hamas tunnel city beneath Gaza – a hidden frontline for Israel

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#### Unraveling the Threads: The Palestine-Israel Conflict's Influence on South Asia

https://www.internationalaffairs.org.au/australianoutlook/unraveling-the-threads-the-palestine-israel-conflicts-influence-on-south-asia/

## Understanding Türkiye's Attitude Towards the Israel-Hamas Conflict

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#### Hamas's top leaders are worth billions. Here's how they continue to grow rich

https://nationalpost.com/news/world/israel-middle-east/hamas-leaders-wealth

#### Judy Asks: Does the Hamas-Israel War Make Europe Vulnerable?

https://carnegieeurope.eu/strategiceurope/90849

#### Houthis launch third strike against Israel, threaten more attacks

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#### IntelBrief: Dangerous Escalation in Gaza Imperils Civilians, Risks Global Ramifications

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# Oil could soar to record high of \$150 if Israel-Hamas war escalates further,

World Bank says

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https://time.com/6329850/hamas-gaza-russia-putin-israel/

# Iran does not want Israel-Hamas conflict to spread, foreign minister says

https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/iran-does-not-want-israel-hamas-conflict-spread-foreign-minis-ter-2023-10-29/

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# How Houthi attacks affect both the Israel-Hamas conflict and Yemen's own civil war – and could put pressure on US, Saudi Arabia

https://the conversation.com/how-houthi-attacks-affect-both-the-israel-hamas-conflict-and-yemens-own-civil-war-and-could-put-pressure-on-us-saudi-arabia-216852

#### **Qatar-Led Negotiations Between Israel, Hamas Ongoing, Source Says**

https://www.voanews.com/a/qatar-led-negotiations-between-israel-hamas-ongoing-source-says-/7331245. html

# "History repeating itself": How the Israel-Hamas war is fueling hate against Muslims and Jews

https://www.vox.com/23930119/hate-crimes-muslims-jews-palestinians-arabs-fear

#### Israel-Hamas 2023 Symposium – The IDF, Hamas, and the Duty to Warn

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#### How violence in Syria is connected to the Israel-Hamas war

https://www.dw.com/en/what-does-recent-violence-in-syria-have-to-do-with-hamas-israel-con-flict/a-67268361

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#### How Telegram Became a Terrifying Weapon in the Israel-Hamas War

https://www.wired.com/story/telegram-hamas-israel-conflict/

#### **Does Fatah stand to reap gains after Israel-Hamas war in Gaza?**

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