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COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

Iraq Forms Supreme Commission to Investigate Major Corruption Cases
Henry Pope – Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project: 18 November 2022
Iraq’s Federal Commission of Integrity announced the formation of a supreme commission to investigate corruption cases that senior officials have described as a serious threat to the state.

Nigeria recovers a total of N117 billion linked to corruption cases within the government
Chinedu Okafor – Business Insider: 18 November 2022
The Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission disclosed that it had recovered hundreds of millions in Nigerian funds in corruption cases from the beginning of the year to August.
https://africa.businessinsider.com/local/markets/nigeria-recovers-n117-billion-linked-to-corruption-cases-within-government/q3lpbg4

For more on this theme:
Ousted President Denies Myanmar Junta’s Latest Corruption Charge

Cracking down on corruption in the Kingdom
https://gulfnews.com/opinion/op-eds/cracking-down-on-corruption-in-the-kingdom-1.91926286

Former Kazakh Officials Jailed On Corruption Charges
https://www.rferl.org/a/kazakhstan-corruption-officials-prison/32131614.html

Corruption: the devil is in the detail
https://www.euractiv.com/section/politics/podcast/corruption-the-devil-is-in-the-detail/

Climate change, flooding and Nigeria’s tide of corruption

Namibia Restores Chinese Company’s Export Permit Despite Bribery Probe

Peter Hain: Links must be made between political corruption and threats to wildlife

Corruption the most common form of fraud in Africa
DRUG TRAFFICKING

Western Balkan mafia networks now key actors in regional, EU drug trade — study
Dina Kartit – Reuters: 21 November 2022

Criminal networks in the western Balkans have become key actors in both regional and European Union drug markets, a report by the EU drug agency said.


Indigenous community in Peru losing forests to timber, drug, land trafficking
Yvette Sierra Praeli – Mongabay: 21 November 2022

The Santa Rosillo de Yanayacu has been facing threats from illegal activities for several years.


For more on this theme:

Ecuador Prison Quietly Released Top Albanian Cocaine Kingpin

Improvised Anti-Vehicle Land Mines (IAVMs) in Mexico: Cartel Emergent Weaponry Use

Drug trafficking as national security threat

Uruguay’s Gang Wars Worsen in Montevideo Neighborhoods

Mexico’s Sinaloa Cartel, CJNG Share Fentanyl Chemical Suppliers

From Deception to Demand: US Fentanyl Users Now Want Fentanyl
https://insightcrime.org/news/deception-demand-us-fentanyl-users/

Scam Drug Dealers Are Ripping People Off on Social Media

Bangladesh’s ‘War on Drugs’ Shoots Up Narcotic Supplies From India
https://thediplomat.com/2022/11/bangladesh-s-war-on-drugs-shoots-up-narcotic-supplies-from-india/

Iranian Narcotics … Another Facet of Houthis’ War against Yemenis
https://english.aawsat.com/home/article/3985881/iranian-narcotics%2E%28%20%E2%80%A6another-facet-houth-is%E2%80%99-war-against-yemenis

Afghan Opium Cultivation Exploding Under Taliban Rule
TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

Wildlife Trafficking Grows in Mexico as Criminals Go Digital
Henry Shuldiner – InSight Crime: 21 November 2022

Traffickers are taking advantage of the unregulated digital marketplace provided by social media platforms, placing some of the country’s endangered species in even greater peril.

Tree cover in Nepal has doubled since forests were entrusted to local communities
Valentina Neri – Lifegate: 19 November 2022

Over the past four decades, Nepal’s communities have carried out an extraordinary reforestation campaign and the results are clearly visible.
https://www.lifegate.com/nepal-forests

For more on this theme:

Illegal gold mining 'mafias' threaten life in an Ecuadorian river

Will CITES finally act to protect rosewood this month? (commentary)

Europeans Are Burning Trees to Keep Warm
https://www.wired.com/story/eu-forests-energy-crisis/

New milestone in battle against illegal, unregulated fishing

Counting The Massive Financial Costs Of Illegal Fishing

Supporting Responsible Fishing in the Pacific

Sharks, turtles, disease on agenda of wildlife trade summit

Mexico wildlife exports to be targeted if porpoise not protected — trade body

India becoming global tiger poaching hotspot

Ground-breaking report draws first overall picture of global wildlife trade

Should more wildlife trade be legal and regulated? It's complicated, say scientists.
PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

INTERNET GOVERNANCE

Do we need a new generation of Human Rights for cyberspace?
Wolfgang Kleinwächter – Observer Research Foundation: 26 October 2022

Does the extension of cyberspace create the need or is it primarily an academic exercise?

For more on this theme:

(U.K.) Google, Apple, Facebook and Twitter may require new UK regulations, says Ofcom

(Asia) Key changes in data privacy and cyber security laws across Southeast Asia in 2022

(U.K.) New laws to tackle the ‘abuses’ of tech giants are unveiled in Jeremy Hunt’s Autumn Statement

CYBER STATECRAFT AND STRATEGY

Consumer privacy is vital to long-term EU-US data partnerships
Husna Grimes – The Drum: 17 November 2022

The White House executive order implementing the long-awaited European Union-United States data-privacy framework is just a start. While data flows account for much of the $7.1 trillion EU-U.S. economic relationship, this framework is unlikely to escape challenges in the EU courts.

For more on this theme:

(EU) Blog: The EU and cybersecurity in the face of the Russian threat

(Global) Solving the Cybersecurity Permacrisis
https://www.infosecurity-magazine.comblogs/solving-cybersecurity-permacrisis/

(Global) Good AI Starts With a Trained Workforce, Government Experts Say
CYBER ATTACKS, THREATS AND VULNERABILITIES

Russian software disguised as American finds its way into U.S. Army, CDC apps
James Perason and Marisa Taylor – Reuters: 16 November 2022

Thousands of smartphone applications in Apple and Google’s online stores contain code developed by a company, Pushwoosh, that presents itself as based in the United States but is actually Russian, Reuters has found.


For more on this theme:
(Global) Companies caught off guard by holiday and weekend ransomware attacks

(Canada) As trust in online spaces degrades, Canada bolsters resilience against cyber attacks

(India) Indian securities depository CDSL detects malware in few internal machines

(Global) This new malware is able to bypass all of Microsoft’s security warnings

CYBERSECURITY

Boosting cyber defences must be a top priority for Australia
Fergus Hanson – The Strategist: 16 November 2022

Failure to put in place protections for citizens wouldn’t be tolerated in other fields of security, so why should inaction in cyberspace be excused?

For more on this theme:
(Global) Why Cybersecurity Should Be Part Of Any Business Strategy

(Global) Why Healthcare is a Current Target for Cybersecurity Attacks
https://www.thehrdirector.com/healthcare-current-target-cybersecurity-attacks/

(Global) MIT Research Documents Effectiveness of Consensus Cyber Risk Oversight Principles
CYBERCRIME

Ransomware is a global problem that needs a global solution
Carly Page – TechCrunch: 18 November 2022

It seemed like the tide was turning on ransomware after the U.S. government scored a handful of wins against the cybercriminals responsible for these attacks. But despite those wins, 2022 could be the worst year yet for ransomware.

https://techcrunch.com/2022/11/18/combatting-ransomware/

For more on this theme:

(India) Karnataka HC directs magistrates not to blindly order seizure of bank account in cyber crime cases

(India) Indian banking sector at forefront of cyber-attacks: What are major threats and way ahead

(Global) FBI warning: PC and tech support scams are back. Here’s what to watch out for

CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION

Cyber as important as missile defences — ex-NATO general
Sabine Seibold – Reuters: 21 November 2022

A cyberattack on the German ports of Bremerhaven or Hamburg would severely impede NATO efforts to send military reinforcements to allies, according to retired U.S. Gen. Ben Hodges, who thinks strong cyber defenses are needed to protect the ports.


For more on this theme:

(Nigeria) PCC advocates upgrade of critical security infrastructure against rising cyber-threats

(U.S.) DHS Chief Appears to Back Status Quo Approach for Securing Critical Infrastructure

(Europe) MEPs approve bill to protect Europe’s critical infrastructure amid Moscow threat
https://euobserver.com/ukraine/156449
ISIS AND FOREIGN FIGHTERS

Inside the Syrian refugee camp where supplies are low and ISIS fears run high
Courtney Kube – NBC: 22 November 2022

“ISIS can plant a seed in one of those areas based on the conditions and try to grow and foment its radical ideology,” U.S. Maj. Gen. Matt McFarlane told NBC News at the camp.


Statement:
CENTCOM commander statement following recent Al Hol visit

For more on this theme:

Israeli Arab teen indicted for affiliation with Islamic State, plans to make bombs

Are red flags about Islamic State in South Africa alarmist?

DR Congo – 2 Killed In Islamic State-Linked Rebel Attack In North Kivu

Islamic State takes responsibility for October attack on Indian-owned ruby mine in Mozambique
https://theprint.in/india/islamic-state-takes-responsibility-for-october-attack-on-indian-owned-ruby-mine-in-mozambique/1212666/

Aid Vehicles Destroyed By Islamic State In Northeast Nigeria

Islamic State-Khorasan’s Transition Into a Transregional Threat
https://thediplomat.com/2022/11/islamic-state-khorasans-transition-into-a-transregional-threat/

Iraqi Returnees from Al-Hol Camp: ISIS Criminals Until Proven Otherwise
https://eerradicalization.com/iraqi-returnees-from-al-hol-camp-isis-criminals-until-proven-otherwise/

‘ISIS bride’ Shamima Begum was ‘child victim of trafficking’, UK tribunal told
https://www.wionews.com/world/isis-bride-shamima-begum-was-child-victim-of-trafficking-uk-tribunal-told-536392

Spain to bring back Spanish families from ISIS camps in Syria
https://english.alarabiya.net/News/middle-east/2022/11/21/Spain-to-bring-back-Spanish-families-from-ISIS-camps-in-Syria-
TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

Afghan Terror Groups Pose Limited Threat to US, Assessments Find
Jeff Seldin – Voice of America: 17 November 2022

Some of the more dire predictions about the boost that terror groups in Afghanistan would get from the sudden U.S. withdrawal have not come to pass, with recent assessments suggesting organizations such as al-Qaida and the Islamic State group have yet to regenerate formidable external attack capabilities.

https://www.voanews.com/a/afghan-terror-groups-pose-limited-threat-to-us-assessments-find/6839772.html

For more on this theme:

Al Qaeda urges Muslims to shun World Cup, stops short of threats

How Stochastic Terrorism Uses Disgust to Incite Violence

Kashmiri “Hybrid Militants”’ New Phase of Terrorism
https://jamestown.org/program/kashmiri-hybrid-militants-new-phase-of-terrorism/

The Pakistani Taliban’s Re-Emergence in Swat: Reasons and Potential Responses
https://jamestown.org/program/the-pakistani-talibans-re-emergence-in-swat-reasons-and-potential-responses/

Defections and Leadership Losses are Leading to Abu Sayyaf’s Demise
https://jamestown.org/program/briefs-376/

The Continuing Threat of Extremist Islam in Southeast Asia

The Handbook of Terrorism Prevention and Preparedness: An Interview with Alex P. Schmid

Taliban meets with Hamas during high-level talks in Turkey

Islamic Translation Centre (ITC) — Taking Al Qaeda’s Media Jihad Global

How a former al-Qaeda affiliate became an existential threat and a wake-up call for the Syrian opposition
RUSSIA/UKRAINE

Russia's invasion of Ukraine could start a race for nukes, Austin says
Paul Mcleary and Alexander Ward – Politico: 19 November 2022

The U.S. defense secretary painted a bleak picture for the world, alluding to a scenario in which autocrats will race to acquire the bomb if Russia isn’t repelled.


For more on this theme:

The Impact of a Single Missile
https://www.thecipherbrief.com/the-impact-of-a-single-missile

What the Joint Chiefs Chairman thinks about a Great Power War
https://www.thecipherbrief.com/column/fine-print/what-the-joint-chiefs-chairman-thinks-about-a-great-power-war

Ground Truth About the Origin of War in Ukraine

‘No One Is Listening To Us’: Since Mobilization, Russian Women Have Stepped Up Protests Against Ukraine War
https://www.rferl.org/a/russia-war-women-lead-protests/32138270.html

Putin’s peace ploy is a ruse to rearm
https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/ukrainealert/putins-peace-ploy-is-a-ruse-to-rearm/

Putin’s invasion has strengthened the case for Ukrainian NATO membership
https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/ukrainealert/putins-invasion-has-strengthened-the-case-for-ukrainian-nato-membership/

Iran’s export of drones to Russia will lead to more proliferation and threaten US partners

Russian National Unity Day Against the Backdrop of the War in Ukraine
https://jamestown.org/program/russian-national-unity-day-against-the-backdrop-of-the-war-in-ukraine/

Putin’s Nuclear Blackmail Hits US Resolve and Chinese Wall
https://jamestown.org/program/putins-nuclear-blackmail-hits-us-resolve-and-chinese-wall/

Beyond Demonstrations and Polls: The Real Face of Anti-War Attitudes in Russia

A Conversation With Petro Poroshenko
https://www.cfr.org/event/conversation-petro-poroshenko-0

Russian strikes on Ukraine spotlight Moldova’s energy woes
https://apnews.com/article/russia-ukraine-business-european-union-europe-chisinau-ed7c8f3124f14c-569bc513aa2e810e5b
RUSSIA/UKRAINE

For more on this theme:

**Cold winter: How the EU can help Moldova survive Russian pressure and protect its democracy**

**Defend. Resist. Repeat: Ukraine’s lessons for European defence**

**Analysis: Shocked by Ukraine war, Russian neighbour Kazakhstan looks west**

**Analysis: Have China and India shifted their stance away from Russia on Ukraine war?**
https://apnews.com/article/nato-g-20-summit-china-indonesia-india-5ec464cb624b46d0cca9bcbbb-0c08371f

**EU says Russia is not yet ready for peace in Ukraine**

**Inside the Wagner Group, Russia’s mercenary force**
https://www.aljazeera.com/podcasts/2022/11/18/inside-the-wagner-group-russias-mercenary-force

**Can Ukraine’s infrastructure survive the winter?**

**Russia pushes military diplomacy in Africa amid Ukraine war**

**How Russia is weaponizing the Ukrainian winter**
https://www.npr.org/2022/11/20/1137698269/russia-weaponizes-winter-ukraine-war

**Time for Ukraine to talk to Russia? ‘Nuts!’**

**How will winter impact the Russia-Ukraine War?**
https://www.jpost.com/international/article-722776

**Russia beat, starved, and electrocuted people from a captured Ukrainian nuclear power plant in a web of underground prisons, escaped workers say**

**How Russia’s loyal ‘opposition’ parties support the war against Ukraine**

**Will Russia Escalate The War In Ukraine?**
RUSSIA/UKRAINE

For more on this theme:

**Russian Politician Says Strikes on Ukraine Are Fueled by ‘Holy Hatred’**

**The Baltics Predicted the Suspension of the Ukraine Grain Deal — and Contributed to its Resumption**

**What are Russia and Ukraine’s military options for this winter?**

**Can the Kremlin Capture Russia’s Restless Ultra-Nationalists?**
https://cepa.org/article/the-kremlin-and-russian-ultranationalists/

**Russia’s Dying Eurasian Dream**

**Blowing Hot and Cold**
https://cepa.org/article/russias-military-collapse-is-accelerating-now-what/