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COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

Mass Protests in Mongolia Decry 'Coal Mafia,' Corruption
Julian Dierkes – The Diplomat: 6 December 2022
For the second time this year, Mongolians took to the streets to show their discontent with the government.

Corruption-Weary South Africans React to Latest Presidential Scandal
Zaheer Cassim – Voice of America: 5 December 2022
Cyril Ramaphosa is not the first president or leader of the ruling African National Congress party to be dogged by corruption allegations. While graft claims do not surprise most South Africans, analysts say it’s taking a toll on the ANC’s popularity.

For more on this theme:

DR Congo: Miner Glencore pays $180m in latest corruption case

Argentina's vice president is found guilty of corruption
https://www.npr.org/2022/12/06/1141134320/argentina-cristina-fernandez-de-kirchner-corruption-guilty

EU to halt separate checks of Romanian anti-corruption drive
https://apnews.com/article/europe-romania-european-union-commission-klaus-iohannis-3b68ae-4c1b7dd768b9f4c1b679b1b4e7

Iraqi PM: Probe recovers part of $2.5B embezzled from taxes

Guatemala court sentences former President Perez in corruption trial

Nigeria’s $11 bln London trial will expose corruption, court hears

Corruption fuels carbon dioxide emissions in Asia: Study

Japan investigators raid Dentsu in widening Olympic probe

Taiwan Struggles to Shake Off Era of Corruption in Local Politics
DRUG TRAFFICKING

Indigenous communities in Peru ‘living in fear’ due to deforestation, drug trafficking
Wette Sierra Praeli – Mongabay: 2 December 2022

By 2021, the territory of the Indigenous Kakataibo community of Puerto Nuevo lost 15% of its tree cover. Satellite data suggests forest loss may have accelerated in 2022. Residents say outsiders are clearing forest to grow coca crops for the production of cocaine.


Colombia’s Infamous ‘Pink Cocaine’ Is on the Rise in Europe
Max Daly – VICE: 7 December 2022

The drug, a mix of ketamine, MDMA and pink food coloring, is being sold by a new generation of young narcos and is increasingly being seized by European authorities.


For more on this theme:

Synthetic drugs smuggling by trains under the scanner

How a Drug Smuggler Moved Cocaine Around the US and Sent $56 Million to Mexican Cartels

Drug traffickers exploit large Dominican Republic connection

Police Finally Arrested This 65-Year-Old Transnational ‘Drug Queen’

What did the European Report on the Consumption and Trafficking of Drugs in the Western Balkans reveal?

Ecuador: a new nerve center for global drug trade


Go after big fish in drug trafficking cases
TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

The link between the ‘world’s smartest bird’ and global organised crime
Georgina Kenyon – The Strategist: 2 December 2022
It is their amazing ability to mimic human speech that has made the African grey a prized commodity for smuggling from the wild.

Mass Graves in Venezuela Connected to Disappearances in Illegal Mining Hub
InSight Crime: 5 December 2022
The discovery of three mass graves in the state of Bolivar points to the sinister nature of the disappearances in the country’s illegal mining epicenter.

For more on this theme:
In Deep Water: India’s sea cucumbers in illegal wildlife trade

Illegal timber trade targeted in the EU and Brazil

Report offers a road map to restore the rule of law in the Brazilian Amazon

Gold Rush in Ivory Coast Brings Money, Illegal Mining

Lake Titicaca: A Smuggler’s Paradise in Bolivia and Peru

Sharks, songbirds and species depleted by pet trade given extra protections

Wildlife crime remained at record highs in 2021, report suggests

Community wildlife conservation isn’t always a win-win solution: the case of Kenya’s Samburu

Using the Organized Crime Convention to adopt laws on crimes that affect the environment in West Africa
PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

INTERNET GOVERNANCE

**The Three Internets**
Gabrielle Sierra – Council on Foreign Relations: 7 December 2022

For years, the world thought of the internet as a borderless zone that brought people from around the world together. But as governments pursue different regulatory paths, the monolithic internet is breaking apart. Now, there are at least three internets: one led by the United States, one by China and one by the European Union.

https://www.cfr.org/podcasts/three-internets

*For more on this theme:*

(Global) A call for gender parity in the digital space
https://allafrica.com/stories/202211300146.html

(Global) Internet Governance Forum Lays Groundwork for Global Digital Compact

(Global, Ethiopia) Global Internet Governance Forum Benefits Ethiopia's Digital Transformation: Ministry

INTERNET FREEDOM

**Meet the tech making online censorship “a very difficult thing to achieve”**
Chiara Castro – TechRadar: 5 December 2022

Lantern is a tool solely focused on circumventing censorship.


*For more on this theme:*

(Ethiopia) No Timeline in Restoring Internet in Tigray — Minister

(China) Censorship And The Risk Of Protesting In China

(Turkey) Concern Rises as New Turkish Media Law Squeezes Dissent

(China) China to implement ‘emergency’ level censorship over zero-Covid protests: Report
CYBER STATECRAFT AND STRATEGY

Taiwan’s Offensive Cyber Capabilities and Ramifications for a Taiwan-China Conflict
Valentin Weber – Council on Foreign Relations: 7 December 2022
Taiwan has had an active and capable offensive cyber force for more than a decade. Taiwanese leadership should continue to grow its capabilities to counter China’s escalating gray-zone campaign.
https://www.cfr.org/blog/taiwans-offensive-cyber-capabilities-and-ramifications-taiwan-china-conflict

For more on this theme:
(China, Global) Disentangling The Digital Battlefield: How the Internet Has Changed War
https://warontherocks.com/2022/12/disentangling-the-digital-battlefield-how-the-internet-has-changed-war/
(Russia, Ukraine) Preparing for a Russian cyber offensive against Ukraine this winter
https://blogs.microsoft.com/on-the-issues/2022/12/03/preparing-russian-cyber-offensive-ukraine/
(India, Global) India’s cybersecurity priorities for G20 Presidency
https://www.orfonline.org/expert-speak/indias-cybersecurity-priorities-for-g20-presidency/

CYBER ATTACKS, THREATS AND VULNERABILITIES

India’s leading state hospital recovers systems after cyber attack
Shivam Patel – Reuters: 6 December 2022
The New Delhi hospital, which had its patient care disrupted, has restored some server functionality.

For more on this theme:
(Canada, China) Amnesty International Canada claims attack by China-backed forces
https://www.theregister.com/2022/12/07/china_believed_responsible_for_amnesty_attack/
(New Zealand) New Zealand government compromised in third-party cyber attack
(U.K.) Nearly half of British manufacturers hit by cyber-attack in the last year
https://eandt.theiet.org/content/articles/2022/12/nearly-half-of-british-manufacturers-hit-by-cyber-attack-in-the-last-year/
(France) French Hospital Halts Operations After Cyber-Attack
CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING

**CSW67: African countries agree on common position to harness technology and innovation for empowerment of women and girls**
*United Nations Economic Commission for Africa: December 2022*

Building inclusive innovation and technology ecosystems must be at the heart of efforts to support the economic, social and political development of female Africans.

https://allafrica.com/stories/202212050312.html

*For more on this theme:*

(Africa, Global) ICANN Launches Initiative to Advance Africa’s Digital Transformation


(EU) From stricter reporting rules to a new cyber threat hub, the EU is upgrading its cybersecurity law

https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2022/12/cybersecurity-european-union-nis/

(EU, Ukraine) EU Creating Cyber Laboratory for Ukrainian Armed Forces

https://www.kyivpost.com/videos/5494

CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION

**What Will It Take to Secure Critical Infrastructure?**
*Tony Anscombe – Dark Reading: 6 December 2022*

There’s no quick fix after decades of underinvestment, but the process has started. Cybersecurity grants, mandatory reporting protocols and beefed-up authentication requirements are being put in place.

https://www.darkreading.com/ics-ot/what-will-it-take-to-secure-critical-infrastructure

*For more on this theme:*

(U.S.) The North Carolina power grid attack exposes a troubling reality


(China, India) Recent Cyber Attacks With Alleged Chinese Involvement That Targeted India’s Critical Infrastructure


(Switzerland) Swiss Government Proposes Mandatory Reporting Of Cybersecurity Attacks On Critical Infrastructure


(U.S.) TSA Seeks Input to Strengthen Rail and Pipeline Cybersecurity

https://www.hstoday.us/subject-matter-areas/transportation/tsa-seeks-input-to-strengthen-rail-and-pipeline-cybersecurity/
PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

ISIS AND FOREIGN FIGHTERS

UN Team Accuses ISIS of Using Chemical Weapons in Iraq
Asharq Al-Awsat – 7 December 2022

The United Nations Investigative Team for Accountability of ISIS revealed in a report that the terrorist group used chemical weapons in Iraq. According to the report, ISIS used chemical weapons in the areas it controlled in Iraq and Syria from 2014 to 2019.


For more on this theme:

NATO ally Turkey is attacking a key US partner force in Syria, and it's upending joint operations against ISIS

Islamic State claims attack on Pakistani embassy in Kabul

Islamic State Jihadists in Mozambique Attack Tanzanian Troops
https://jamestown.org/program/briefs-378/

Islamic State's Shiraz Attack Provokes Narrative War with Iran and al-Qaeda

ISKP's Evolving Propaganda Against Chinese Imperialism
https://jamestown.org/program/iskps-evolving-propaganda-against-chinese-imperialism/

Islamic State in Greater Sahara Escalates Attacks Against al-Qaeda's Sahelian Affiliate
https://jamestown.org/program/briefs-377/

“My Son is Just Another Kid”

ISIS is back in the open in southern Syria
https://www.mei.edu/publications/isis-back-open-southern-syria

Spanish decision shows tide turning on repatriating ISIS brides
https://thearabweekly.com/spanish-decision-shows-tide-turning-repatriating-isis-brides

ISIS detention camps a ‘ticking time bomb’
TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

Terrorist Upsurge in Taliban's Afghanistan: Regimes, Attacks and the Concerns of Neighbors
Kawsar Uddin Mahmud – Modern Diplomacy: 1 December 2022

A year has passed, but the Taliban government still lacks an adequate approach to thwart terrorism.


For more on this theme:

U.S. designates Al Qaeda, Pakistani Taliban leaders based in Afghanistan

Boko Haram kill 33 Iswap fighters' wives as rivalry escalates

Pakistan: World Running Out of Patience with Afghan Taliban

Afghan Taliban say group will stick to strict Islamic law

West African Countries Meet Over Spillover of Terrorism From Sahel Region

A wicked problem: how to deal with terrorists if they are allegedly still a risk after serving their sentence?

West African Leaders Seek Solutions to Curb Terrorism from Sahel Region

Understanding the Turkistan Islamic Party: From Global Jihad to Local Anti-Chinese Resistance

The Iranian’s Militias: a constant threat to the stability and security of countries

Lessons learned from Al Qaeda terror attack in Kenya, twenty years on – opinion
https://www.jpost.com/opinion/article-723414

The 'Total War' Against Al-Shabaab In Somalia
CRIME AND CONFLICT

We Have Strategies to Address Gender-Based Violence — It’s Time to Implement Them

Negar Ashtari Abay – United States Institute of Peace: 5 December 2022

A global increase in gender-based violence is exacerbating conflict and insecurity. Coordinated and sustained funding is needed to reverse the trend.

https://www.usip.org/publications/2022/12/we-have-strategies-address-gender-based-violence-its-time-implement-them

For more on this theme:

How Ukraine’s proposed special tribunal for Russian aggression would work

Vladimir Putin’s Ukrainian Genocide: Nobody can claim they did not know
https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/ukrainealert/vladimir-putins-ukrainian-genocide-nobody-can-claim-they-did-not-know/

Ukraine Touts International Tribunal for Russia’s Crimes

Ukrainians say they hid orphaned children from Russian deportation
https://www.npr.org/2022/12/05/1140669751/ukrainians-say-they-hid-orphaned-children-from-russian-deportation

Ukrainian Nobel Peace Prize winner works to hold Russia accountable for atrocities
https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/ukrainian-nobel-peace-prize-winner-works-to-hold-russian-forces-accountable-for-atrocities

U.S. defense secretary accuses Russia of ‘deliberate cruelty’ in Ukraine

How War Crimes and the Crime of Aggression Are Being Pursued Against Russia

Ukraine: First Rape Trial of Russian Soldier
https://www.iwpr.net/global-voices/ukraine-first-rape-trial-russian-soldier

Ukraine: Victims of sex crimes call for breaking the silence
RUSSIA/UKRAINE

Russia Crisis Military Assessment: Can Ukraine press its offensive this winter?
Atlantic Council: 30 November 2022

Russian and Ukrainian forces face a long winter as changing weather will complicate both offensive and defensive operations.


For more on this theme:

Only Russia’s decisive loss on the battlefield will end the Ukraine war

Preparing for Victory in Ukraine

Sanctions Hit Russia as Moscow Attempts to Overcome Them
https://indepthnews.net/index.php/opinion/5784-sanctions-hit-russia-as-moscow-attempts-to-overcome-them

The IMF needs to step up to keep Ukraine afloat in 2023

Russia must stop being an empire if it is wishes to prosper as a nation
https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/ukrainealert/russia-must-stop-being-an-empire-if-it-is-wishes-to-prosper-as-a-nation/

Russia's Ukraine invasion is fueling an energy crisis in neighboring Moldova

Winter and Beyond: An Inflection Point in the War Over Ukraine

Ukraine war: US neither encouraged nor enabled Kyiv to strike inside Russia – Blinken

Putin says Russia could be fighting in Ukraine for a long time

Does Russia have enough money for war?
https://www.aljazeera.com/opinions/2022/12/5/does-russia-have-enough-money-for-war

NATO Secretary General: “Russia trying to freeze Ukraine conflict”

The devastating humanitarian impact of Russia's systematic strikes on Ukraine's critical infrastructure: UK statement at the Security Council
RUSSIA/UKRAINE

For more on this theme:

**Russian nationals fighting for Ukraine vow to resist Moscow’s forces ‘until the end’**
https://www.cnn.com/2022/12/05/europe/russians-fighting-for-ukraine-intl-cmd/index.html

**Ukraine is the victim. Negotiations should be Kyiv’s decision.**
https://www.brookings.edu/blog/order-from-chaos/2022/12/06/ukraine-is-the-victim-negotiations-should-be-kyivs-decision/

**Russia coordinating Ukraine hacks with missiles, could increasingly target European allies, Microsoft warns**
https://www.politico.com/news/2022/12/03/microsoft-warning-russian-ukraine-cyberattack-00071908

**Why Russia Keeps Insisting That Poland Is Preparing to Partition Ukraine**
https://carnegieendowment.org/politika/88585

**Russia Investing Large Amount of Its Military Might in Ukraine’s Bakhmut**

**Russia Expands Defenses Along Ukraine Border Amid Apparent Invasion Fears**

**What Next for Ukraine’s Formerly Pro-Russian Regions?**
https://carnegieendowment.org/politika/88542

**Ukraine Braces for a Brutal Winter Under Russian Bombs**
https://foreignpolicy.com/2022/12/06/ukraine-russia-winter-energy-crisis/

**What Does Ukrainian Winter Mean for Putin’s Forces?**
https://www.bloomberg.com/opinion/articles/2022-12-05/ukraine-war-as-winter-approaches-russia-challenged

**In Ukraine, Russia is trying to freeze us into submission or death. It will fail**
https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2022/dec/01/ukraine-russia-freeze-power-starvation-holodomor-terror

**Russian Public Support Dropping for War on Ukraine – British Defense Ministry**

**How Has the Russia-Ukraine War Impacted Cambodia’s Foreign Policy?**
https://thediplomat.com/2022/12/how-has-the-russia-ukraine-war-impacted-cambodias-foreign-policy/

**Ukraine Needs a Financial Lifeline, Too**
https://carnegieendowment.org/2022/12/05/ukraine-needs-financial-lifeline-too-pub-88569

**Why Is All Quiet on Russia’s Western Balkan Front?**
https://carnegieendowment.org/politika/88547

**Mobilisation increases Russian military threat - Ukrainian general**
RUSSIA/UKRAINE

For more on this theme:

Lawsuit against Russia's Wagner group seeks Ukraine reparations: lawyer

Blasts deep inside Russia hand Putin a fresh problem, with no obvious answer

UK says attacks on Russian bomber bases could be 'most strategically significant' force protection failure of the Ukraine war

The Long-Term Risks of a Premature Ceasefire in Ukraine

Vladimir Putin better informed now about Ukraine war, says US
https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/dec/04/vladimir-putin-better-informed-now-about-ukraine-war-says-us

Putin's War in Ukraine: It's Essential Not to Talk
https://cepa.org/article/russian-war-in-ukraine-its-essential-not-to-talk/

Is Belarus Preparing to join Russia's War? Maybe
https://cepa.org/article/is-belarus-preparing-to-join-russias-war-maybe/

Russia's Covert Mobilization to Feed the Frontline
https://cepa.org/article/russias-covert-mobilization-to-feed-the-frontline/

The Miniaturization of Force
https://cepa.org/article/the-miniaturization-of-force/

Russia's Imperial Farce
https://cepa.org/article/russias-imperial-farce/

Ukraine's War Against the Dark
https://cepa.org/article/ukrainian-civilians-fight-against-the-dark/

Analysis: Vietnam shifts gears on arms trade as it loosens ties with Russia

Suspicion swirls over Russia's plans for Belarus after minister's death
https://www.stripes.com/theaters/europe/2022-12-01/belarus-foreign-minister-death-analysis-8266459.html

Europe's war lessons
https://www.politico.eu/article/europes-war-lessons/

Why India Chose Neutrality on Ukraine
https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/why-india-chose-neutrality-ukraine-205982
RUSSIA/UKRAINE

For more on this theme:

**Putin's Blackmail Works Domestically As Well As Internationally**
https://www.wilsoncenter.org/blog-post/putins-blackmail-works-domestically-well-internationally

**Moscow, Minsk, And The War Against Ukraine**

**Russia's Influence in the Balkans**
https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/russias-influence-balkans