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COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

Honduras, U.N. to sign pact establishing anti-corruption commission
Gustavo Palencia – Reuters: 14 December 2022

Honduras said it will sign a preliminary agreement with the United Nations to establish an anti-corruption commission, delivering on one of President Xiomara Castro’s key campaign pledges.


For more on this theme:

Lack of Zimbabwe witness protection law hampers fight against corruption

Belarus Corruption Watch: Lukashenko's Shadow Diplomacy

Fighting Tunisia’s Rampant Corruption with Autocracy – Kais Saied’s Chimera

Why fighting corruption is key to addressing the world’s most pressing problems
https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2022/12/why-fighting-corruption-is-key-to-addressing-the-world-s-most-pressing-problems/

China’s Xi Jinping Signals He’ll Press On With Fight Against Corruption

Corruption in South Africa: new book lifts the lid on who profits — and their corporate enablers

Empowering local action against corruption in COVID-19 responses

Proposed Philippine sovereign wealth fund raises fears of corruption, mismanagement

Anti-Corruption Protests Pressure the Government of Mongolia

Corruption and democracy in Asia
https://www.brookings.edu/research/corruption-and-democracy-in-asia/

EU corruption scandal
https://www.dw.com/en/eu-corruption-scandal/a-64076450
DRUG TRAFFICKING

A powder storm: The cocaine markets of East and southern Africa
Jason Eligh – Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime
There is a transition occurring in the production and distribution of cocaine.
https://globalinitiative.net/analysis/cocaine-east-southern-africa/

The Chapitos’ Monopoly on Drug Sales in Culiacán, Sinaloa
InSight Crime: 6 December 2022
Drug sales in Sinaloa’s capital city may be a small-time business. Even so, it’s controlled by one of the most notorious and powerful organized crime families in Mexico.

For more on this theme:
Mexican Drug Trafficking Organizations’ New Marijuana Strategies
Ordinary People Are Smuggling Millions for Drug Dealers
Mexican cartels have turned to fentanyl
https://unherd.com/2022/12/mexican-cartels-have-turned-to-fentanyl/
State Officials Targeted as CJNG, Sinaloa Cartel Clash in Zacatecas, Mexico
Should Europe Be Bracing for the Spread of Tusi?
Cocaine Conflict Is Causing A Crisis For Colombia’s Oil Industry
How Did the Castedo Clan Run the Drug Trade in Northern Argentina?
Panama Became Logistics Hub for Drug Trafficking ‘Super Cartel’
How Latin America’s Synthetic Drug Traffickers Launder Dirty Cash
How a Cocaine-Smuggling Cartel Infiltrated the World’s Biggest Shipping Company
Is the Syrian Regime the World’s Biggest Drug Dealer?
Captagon: The one drug turning war-torn Syria into a narco state
https://www.wionews.com/middle-east/captagon-the-one-drug-turning-war-torn-syria-into-a-narco-state-542324
TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

In Brazilian Amazon, mining harm comes from beyond just the mines, study shows
Maurício Brum – Mongabay: 24 November 2022

A new study suggests the indirect impacts of mining in the Brazilian Amazon have been grossly underestimated. Impacts include not only deforestation but also loss of biodiversity, water contamination and health hazards for Indigenous peoples.


For more on this theme:

The Talaandig Tribe Of The Southern Philippines Shows That Reforestation Takes A Village
https://www.civilbeat.org/2022/11/a-tribe-in-the-southern-philippines-shows-that-reforestation-takes-a-village/

New app transforms data gathering for wildlife in Papua New Guinea

U.N. report calls for the ban of mercury trade and its use in gold mining

UN: Nigeria’s Pirates Switch From Kidnapping Seafarers to Stealing Oil

The China Client: Wildlife Trafficking in Mexico

Deploying Data Science and AI to Fight Wildlife Trafficking
https://spectrum.ieee.org/nyu-vida-data-science

Latin America’s Biodiversity Rapidly Plummeting
https://dialogo-americas.com/articles/latin-americas-biodiversity-rapidly-plummeting/

Illegal Mining Spreads to Furthest Reaches of Amazon in Ecuador

Report: Mercury from Bolivia Supplying Illegal Mining in Peru

Venezuela’s gold: 10 ways to address illicit financial flows from the mineral trade
https://www.brookings.edu/blog/up-front/2022/12/01/venezuelas-gold-10-ways-to-address-illicit-financial-flows-from-the-mineral-trade/

Cambodian journalists reporting on illegal logging charged with extortion

Business as usual? Illegal charcoal and timber trade in Eastern DRC
https://globalinitiative.net/analysis/charcoal-timber-trade-eastern-drc-congo/
PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

INTERNET GOVERNANCE

Here’s how the global community is doing on technology governance
Anu Devi and Nicolas Jeambon – The World Economic Forum: 7 December 2022

A new report provides a snapshot of technology governance around the world. It shows that some progress has been made on cybersecurity as well as on environmental, social and governance issues. More work is needed to make technology truly secure and to make sure it benefits society and the planet.

https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2022/12/here-s-how-global-community-tech-governance-cybersecurity/

For more on this theme:

(Global) The Internet Dividend
https://www.thereporterethiopia.com/28300/

(Global, Europe) UN Internet Governance Forum explores how to implement Council of Europe Recommendation on Combating Hate Speech

(India) Nurturing Responsible Young Netizens through Digital Civics

CYBER STATECRAFT AND STRATEGY

State-sponsored economic cyber-espionage for commercial purposes on the rise
Gatra Priyandita, Bart Hogeveen and Ben Stevens – The Strategist: 16 December 2022

State-sponsored and cyber-enabled theft of intellectual property is on the rise as countries seek to gain advantages in a global environment increasingly shaped by strategic rivalry and political mistrust.


For more on this theme:

(Russia/Ukraine) Russia Is Boosting Its Cyber Attacks on Ukraine, Allies, Microsoft Says

(Australia, U.S., Global) AUSMIN 2022: technology collaboration for capacity-building and data management

(China) How China is using network vulnerabilities to boost its cyber capabilities
CYBERSECURITY

What’s next in cybersecurity
Lorenzo Franceschi-Bicchierai – MIT Technology Review: November 2022

In the world of cybersecurity, there is always one certainty: more hacks. That’s the unavoidable constant in an industry that will spend an estimated U.S. $150 billion worldwide this year without being able to actually stop hackers.


For more on this theme:
(Global) Cybersecurity: Trends From 2022 and Predictions For 2023

(Global) 2023 Predictions: API Security the new Battle Ground in Cybersecurity

(U.S., Global) Top Cybersecurity Predictions 2023

(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

The top 10 hacks and cyber security threats of 2022
Olivia Powell – Cyber Security Hub: 2 December 2022

In 2021 there were more than 4,100 publicly disclosed data breaches, which equates to approximately 22 billion records being exposed. The figures for 2022 are expected to match, if not exceed, that total by as much as 5%.


For more on this theme:
(Africa) The downsides of digital revolution: Confronting Africa’s evolving cyber threats
https://globalinitiative.net/analysis/digital-revolution-africa-cyber-threats/

(Global) New cyber threat landscape spurs shift to zero trust security paradigm

(Australia, Global) Analyzing Australia’s cyberthreat landscape, and what it means for the rest of the world
https://www.helpnetsecurity.com/2022/12/13/australia-cyberattacks/
CYBERCRIME

Of Exploits and Experts: The Professionalization of Cybercrime
Dark Reading: 1 December 2022

No longer the realm of lone hackers, the world of cybercrime is increasingly strategic, commoditized and collaborative.


For more on this theme:

(U.S., Global) Tech talk: How IR can tackle cyber-crime
https://www.irmagazine.com/tech-social-media/tech-talk-how-ir-can-tackle-cyber-crime-0

(U.K.) Toll of cyber-crime on businesses revealed in new research

(GLOBAL) Criminals commercialising cybercrime — Sophos
https://www.sundayobserver.lk/2022/12/11/business/criminals-commercialising-cybercrime-sophos

(GLOBAL) Cyber-criminals Scammed Each Other Out of Millions in 2022

CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION

Digital Agriculture — A Gap in Critical Infrastructure Protection
Triantafyllos Kouloufakos – Council on Foreign Relations: 15 December 2022

Despite digital technology’s growing importance in the world’s food supply, governments have done little to secure digital agriculture or include it under critical infrastructure protections.


For more on this theme:

(Australia) Foreseeing Critical Infrastructure Predictions

(Netherlands) Netherlands urges citizens to prepare survival kits in case hackers target critical infrastructure
https://www.itpro.co.uk/security/cyber-attacks/369629/netherlands-prepare-survival-kits-hackers-critical-infrastructure

(Australia) Australia Raises Bar on Collaboration to Secure Critical Infrastructure
https://securityboulevard.com/2022/12/australia-raises-bar-on-collaboration-to-secure-critical-infrastructure/

(U.S.) Critical Infrastructure: Actions Needed to Better Secure Internet-Connected Devices
Islamic State Khorasan Brings War With Pakistan to Afghan Soil
Lucas Webber – The Diplomat: 8 December 2022

In striking a Pakistani target in Taliban territory, Islamic State Khorasan Province is harming its two primary battlefield enemies at once.


For more on this theme:

Islamic State in Somalia: A 12 Month Outlook
https://greydynamics.com/islamic-state-in-somalia-a-12-month-outlook/

The Islamic State in South Africa: A 6-Month Outlook

As threat of Islamic State grows, Hindu temples in India become highly vulnerable

UN: Iraq Christians were victims of Islamic State war crimes
https://apnews.com/article/islamic-state-group-religion-crime-middle-east-war-crimes-fb-d362989987f9210ea4df1477a6fd6

ISIS foreign fighters must be repatriated, US says
https://www.thenationalnews.com/world/us-news/2022/12/05/isis-foreign-fighters-must-be-repatriated-us-says/

Remarks at a UN Security Council Briefing on the UN Investigative Team for Accountability of Da’esh/ISIL (UNITAD)

‘We Need to Wake Up’: How ISIS Made Africa Its Second Home

Killed Islamic State Leader Had Previous Run-In With US
https://www.voanews.com/a/killed-islamic-state-leader-had-previous-run-in-with-us-/6860000.html

ISIS Will Leverage Improved Attack Capabilities to Generate Forces in Syria
https://www.criticalthreats.org/analysis/isis-will-leverage-improved-attack-capabilities-to-generate-forces-in-syria

Syria: Repatriations Lag for Foreigners with Alleged ISIS Ties

ISWAP’s Pledge To New ISIS Leader Shows Transformation
TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

Terror and taxes: Inside al-Shabaab’s revenue-collection machine
Jay Bahadur – Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime: 8 December 2022

The Somali Islamist group commonly known as al-Shabaab, is the “largest, wealthiest and most deadly” al-Qaida affiliate remaining in the world.
https://globalinitiative.net/analysis/al-shabaab-tax/

For more on this theme:

Jihadists accuse HTS of conspiring with Syrian government to kill IS leader

Women have a vital role in Cameroon’s Boko Haram reintegration process but face discrimination challenges

Taliban’s draconian violations against women may amount to crimes against humanity

Afghans Increasingly Marrying Off Young Daughters To Avoid Forced Unions With Taliban
https://gandhara.rferl.org/a/afghanistan-early-marriage-avoid-taliban/32157525.html

Taliban Attempts to Erase Women From Public Life
https://www.cfr.org/blog/taliban-attempts-erase-women-public-life

The Abortion Assault: Nigerian military ran secret mass abortion programme in war against Boko Haram

Jihadists and bandits are cooperating. Why this is bad news for Nigeria
https://theconversation.com/jihadists-and-bandits-are-cooperating-why-this-is-bad-news-for-nigeria-195619

Did al-Qaeda Die With Ayman al-Zawahiri?
https://www.lawfareblog.com/did-al-qaeda-die-ayman-al-zawahiri

As terrorist groups expand in the Sahel, is Algeria the missing link?
https://www.mei.edu/publications/terrorist-groups-expand-sahel-algeria-missing-link

Violent extremism could beckon in north-western Nigeria if local dynamics are ignored

Al Qaeda Leaders Use Afghanistan as a Safe Haven
TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

Taliban Turn to Shariah to Justify Executions, But It's Not That Simple
Atal Ahmadzai and Faten Ghosn – The Diplomat: 9 December 2022

The international community should not let Afghanistan’s Taliban regime terrorize and violate the fundamental human rights of 35 million people through a fraudulent claim of divinity or sovereignty.


For more on this theme:

Jihadist Spillover to Coastal West Africa: Implications for Regional Stability.

Online Platforms as Gendered Sites: Why We Should Pay Attention to Women-Only Forums
https://gnet-research.org/2022/11/26/online-platforms-as-gendered-sites-why-we-should-pay-attention-to-women-only-forums/

Counterterrorism Yearbook 2022

How Climate Change Helps Violent Nonstate Actors
https://carnegieendowment.org/2022/12/14/how-climate-change-helps-violent-nonstate-actors-pub-88637

Terrorist Resources, Proclivity for Attacks, and an Effective Counterterrorism Framework
https://www.orfonline.org/research/terrorist-resources-proclivity-for-attacks/

The contested world of deradicalization programs
https://www.orfonline.org/research/the-contested-world-of-deradicalization-programs/

A Comparative Study of Non-State Violent Drone Use in the Middle East

The Underestimated Insurgency, Continued: Salafi-Jihadi Capabilities and Opportunities in Africa

Once a terrorist, always a terrorist? Study examines the UN’s terrorist list

States Must Address Drivers of Radicalization, Technology Use by Terrorists, Speakers Tell Security Council, Urging Comprehensive Approach to Tackle Transnational Threat
CRIME AND CONFLICT

The Case for War Torts — for Ukraine and Beyond
Rebecca Crootof – Lawfare: 14 December 2022

Creating a permanent "war torts" institution — which would establish a route to compensation for civilians harmed in armed conflicts — would both ensure that there are consequences for Russia’s actions now and minimize civilian harm in the future.

https://www.lawfareblog.com/case-war-torts%E2%80%94-ukraine-and-beyond

For more on this theme:

Ukrainian officials search for evidence of Russian war crimes

The Conventional Wisdom About War Crimes Is Wrong

Briefing Note on the Call for a War Crimes Court for Liberia
https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/12/05/briefing-note-call-war-crimes-court-liberia

Impact of war on children focus of side-event at 2022 Ministerial Council
https://www.osce.org/forum-for-security-cooperation/533408

Ukraine: Older people face heightened risks, unable to access housing in displacement following Russian invasion – new report

Murders of Colombia’s Social Leaders at Six-Year High Despite Peace Talks

New Avenues for Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict: Addressing Weapons

Has South Sudan’s Conflict Really Ended?
https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/12/14/has-south-sudans-conflict-really-ended

Firearms Trafficking in the Caribbean: Haiti’s Unrest and the Neighbors Next Door

The Road to the International Criminal Court Remains Narrow for Russian Crimes of Aggression

World Leaders Expected to Push for Ukraine War Crimes Trials at Munich Security Conference
CRIME AND CONFLICT

For more on this theme:

**Targeting culture: The destruction of cultural heritage in conflict**

**As Mexico’s epidemic of violence rages on, authorities seem powerless to stop it**
https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/dec/08/as-mexicos-epidemic-of-violence-rages-on-authori-
-ries-seem-powerless-to-stop-it

**Undeniable: War crimes, crimes against humanity and 30 years of villagers’ testimonies in rural Southeast Burma**
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ers%E2%80%99-testimonies-rural

**End it now: United, we fight violence against women and girls**
https://www.osce.org/blog/534455

**UK trains Ukrainian judges to carry out war crime trials of Russian soldiers**
https://www.firstpost.com/world/uk-trains-ukrainian-judges-to-carry-out-war-crime-trials-of-russian-sol-
diers-11809061.html

**Bosnia Arrests Ex-Soldier for War Crimes Against Sarajevo Serbs**
https://balkaninsight.com/2022/12/15/bosnia-arrests-ex-soldier-for-war-crimes-against-sarajevo-serbs/

**Clan conflicts in Syria: Seeds of revenge grow under the ashes amid attempts to renew customary law**
https://syriadirect.org/clan-conflicts-in-syria-seeds-of-revenge-grow-under-the-ashes-amid-attempts-to-renew-
customary-law/

**Tigray’s War Used Women’s Bodies as Battlefields. 3 People Shared Their Stories With Me.**
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**What Must Be Done to Finally Bring Justice to Kosovo?**
https://balkaninsight.com/2022/12/16/what-must-be-done-to-finally-bring-justice-to-kosovo/

**DRC facing security challenges as conflict continues**

**The Rohingya Genocide and Southeast Asian Responses**
https://www.internationalaffairs.org.au/australianoutlook/the-rohingya-genocide-and-southeast-asian-re-
sponses/

**Armenia: Trafficked and Exploited**
https://iwpr.net/global-voices/armenia-trafficked-and-exploited

**8,600 Ukrainian Children Were Forcibly Deported To Russia: Ombudsman**
https://www.ibtimes.com/8600-ukrainian-children-were-forcibly-deported-russia-ombudsman-3647468
CRIME AND CONFLICT

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Zelenskyy urges special tribunal for Russian aggression against Ukraine

Individual Russians must be held accountable for war crimes in Ukraine
https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/ukrainealert/individual-russians-must-be-held-accountable-for-war-crimes-in-ukraine/

There have been 50,000 alleged war crimes in Ukraine. We worked to solve one
https://www.npr.org/2022/12/10/1138710652/russian-war-crimes-ukraine-investigation

RUSSIA/UKRAINE

Forward resilience: How to help Ukraine win on and off the battlefield
Daniel S. Hamilton – Brookings: 8 December 2022

Russia’s relentless barrage of missile and drone attacks on Ukraine signals a horrific escalation. Failing on the battlefield, Russian President Vladimir Putin is stepping up his assaults on Ukrainian society. In so doing, he is changing the nature of the war.
https://www.brookings.edu/blog/order-from-chaos/2022/12/08/forward-resilience-how-to-help-ukraine-win-on-and-off-the-battlefield/

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What Every Enterprise Can Learn From Russia’s Cyber Assault on Ukraine
https://www.darkreading.com/microsoft/what-every-enterprise-can-learn-from-russia-s-cyber-assault-on-ukraine

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Russian Influence Fades in the Middle East
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Russian Hackers Use Western Networks to Attack Ukraine

Generational Divides in Wartime Ukraine: Perceptions of War and Peace

To Avoid Answering Hard Questions at Home, Putin Will Keep Fighting in Ukraine

Ukraine vs Russia: Exploring strengths and weaknesses
https://www.chathamhouse.org/events/all/research-event/ukraine-vs-russia-exploring-strengths-and-weaknesses
RUSSIA/UKRAINE

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Ukraine Symposium — The THeMIS Bounty Part I: Seizure of Enemy Property
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Putin’s Long War
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https://carnegieendowment.org/politika/88639

Divided in the Face of Defeat: The Schism Forming in the Russian Elite
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Cyber Operations in Ukraine: Russia’s Unmet Expectations
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Russian Peacekeepers Find Themselves Sidelined in Nagorno-Karabakh
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https://russiapost.info/page32446896.html

In Ukraine, a new approach to modern conflict is emerging

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/

Inside Russia’s Domestic Disinformation Ecosystem

Russia’s war on Ukraine: a view from the Czech Republic

The China-Russia ‘Alliance’: Double the Danger or Limited Partnership?
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The Chatter Podcast: Visualizing Vladimir Putin with Andrew Weiss
https://www.lawfareblog.com/chatter-podcast-visualizing-vladimir-putin-andrew-weiss

Beware of (Russian) Hubs Bearing Gifts
RUSSIA/UKRAINE

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**Why Latvia Must Engage its Russian Minority**

**Can Belarus Avoid Putin’s War?**
https://cepa.org/article/can-belarus-avoid-putins-war/

**Russia Struggles to Maintain Munition Stocks (Part Two)**
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**NATO’s Concerns Mount as Russia Increases Commercial and Military Activity in Arctic**

**As Ukraine Conducts Deep Strikes, Russia Turns to Iran**
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**Banking Cooperation Between Iran and Russia Increases as De-Dollarization Campaign Intensifies**
https://jamestown.org/program/banking-cooperation-between-iran-and-russia-increases-as-de-dollarization-campaign-intensifies/

**A ‘Morgenthau Plan’ for Russia: Avoiding Post-1991 Mistakes in Dealing With a Post-Putin Russia (Part Three)**

**War in Ukraine Dominated Cybersecurity in 2022**

**NATO chief fears Ukraine war could become a wider conflict**
https://apnews.com/article/russia-ukraine-jens-stoltenberg-government-f01121d32693881920b1fe5e8c75b22d

**Ukraine war: Drones are transforming the conflict, bringing Russia on to the frontline**

**Ukraine war: what the Northern Ireland peace process can tell us about ending this conflict**

**The Russia-Ukraine war and its ramifications for Russia**
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**How Ukraine is Preparing for Winter**
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RUSSIA/UKRAINE

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Central Asian's Vulnerability to Russian Propaganda
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Vladimir Putin: 2022 Loser of the Year

Putin preparing major offensive in new year, Ukraine defence minister warns
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Vladimir Putin's failing invasion is fueling the rise of Russia’s far right
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Ukraine recap: prepare for a ‘long war’ says Putin — but most Russians beg to disagree
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Russia is losing and the world can see that Putin is lying: UK statement to the OSCE
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Are We Seeing a Global Geopolitical Realignment? Statements, UN Votes, and Diplomati-

c Interactions after the Invasion of Ukraine
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Continuing to Hold Russia to Account for its War against Ukraine
https://www.state.gov/continuing-to-hold-russia-to-account-for-its-war-against-ukraine/

Ukraine stalemate sets stage for possible winter escalation
https://apnews.com/article/russia-ukraine-putin-46d89e0c2812cbf0656a345307d3d341