

THE MARSHALL CENTER

transnational weekly



A CURRENT AWARENESS SERVICE FROM THE MARSHALL CENTER

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COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

Treasury's Yellen vows big push against corruption, new 'kleptocracy fund'

Reuters: 9 December 2021

The U.S. Treasury Department must play a major role in combating corruption at home and abroad, Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen told President Joe Biden's democracy summit, unveiling a new "kleptocracy fund" to reward tips on where corrupt foreign leaders hid their money in the United States.

<https://www.reuters.com/business/finance/treasurys-yellen-vows-big-push-against-corruption-new-kleptocracy-fund-2021-12-09/>

Peru's Anti-Corruption Crusade Grows Weaker

Alejandra Rodriguez – InSight Crime: 10 December 2021

Authorities in Peru have dismantled a complex corruption network that spanned various levels of government, underscoring how deep-rooted graft networks have persisted in the country, despite efforts to reform state corruption.

<https://insightcrime.org/news/perus-anti-corruption-crusade-grows-weaker/>

For more on this theme:

Corruption, Capture and Fragile Contexts

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/events/2021/12/08/corruption-capture-and-fragile-contexts>

Sweeping up corruption in Montenegro

<https://www.dw.com/en/sweeping-up-corruption-in-montenegro/av-60016358>

Incoming Honduran president wants UN help to battle corruption

<https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20211204-incoming-honduran-president-wants-un-help-to-battle-corruption>

U.S. flags concerns for journalists and corruption fighters in Guatemala

<https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/us-flags-concerns-journalists-corruption-fighters-guatemala-2021-12-02/>

UK pledges to fight corruption in post-Brexit overhaul of procurement rules

<https://www.politico.eu/article/uk-pledges-to-fight-corruption-in-post-brexit-overhaul-of-procurement-rules/>

Fact Sheet: U.S. Strategy on Countering Corruption

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/12/06/fact-sheet-u-s-strategy-on-countering-corruption/>

South Africa's corruption busters: short-changed on funding and political commitment

<https://theconversation.com/south-africas-corruption-busters-short-changed-on-funding-and-political-commitment-173072>

No quick fix for Haiti — but corruption comes first

<https://thehill.com/opinion/international/584357-no-quick-fix-for-haiti-but-corruption-comes-first?rl=1>

DRUG TRAFFICKING

Meth and heroin fuel Afghanistan drugs boom

Secunder Kermani – BBC: 12 December 2021

Drugs are big business in Afghanistan, and under the Taliban, trade is booming. The country, long linked with heroin, has emerged as a significant producer of crystal meth – another dangerously addictive drug.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-59608474>

How Mexican Cartels Settled in Canada

Alessandro Ford – InSight Crime: 13 December 2021

The story of the Mexican cartels and their influence abroad has mostly focused on the United States. But a number of Mexican groups have headed farther north, embedding themselves in the Canadian underworld, where they are displacing traditional mafias.

<https://insightcrime.org/news/how-mexican-cartels-settled-canada/>

For more on this theme:

CNB cracks down on drug buyers who use encrypted messaging apps including Telegram

<https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/cnb-cracks-down-on-drug-buyers-who-use-encrypted-messaging-apps-including-telegram>

Buhari raises alarm over illicit drugs

<https://dailytrust.com/buhari-raises-alarm-over-illicit-drugs>

Deaths of despair: how Britain became Europe's drugs capital

<https://www.spectator.co.uk/article/deaths-of-despair-how-britain-became-europe-s-drugs-capital>

Parliamentary Panel on Home Affairs Raises Concerns Over Cryptocurrency, Darknet Use for Drug Trafficking

<https://www.news18.com/news/india/parliamentary-panel-on-home-affairs-raises-concerns-over-cryptocurrency-use-in-darknet-drug-trafficking-4544066.html>

VIDEO: Thailand's war on drugs in the Golden Triangle

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-12-13/thailands-war-on-drugs-in-the-golden-triangle/13674278>

Did Anti-Drug Crusade Lead to Haiti President's Killing?

<https://insightcrime.org/news/anti-drug-crusade-haiti-president-killing/>

Afghanistan opium trade booms since Taliban takeover

<https://www.dw.com/en/afghanistan-opium-trade-booms-since-taliban-takeover/a-60081725>

Executive Order on Imposing Sanctions on Foreign Persons Involved in the Global Illicit Drug Trade

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/12/15/executive-order-on-imposing-sanctions-on-foreign-persons-involved-in-the-global-illicit-drug-trade/>

Drug trafficking: is Benin under siege?

<https://issafrica.org/iss-today/drug-trafficking-is-benin-under-siege>

TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

Time to Confront Southeast Asia's Online Wildlife Trafficking

Danielle Fallin – The Diplomat: 13 December 2021

As COVID-19 restrictions ease in Southeast Asia, illegal wildlife traders are poised to make a comeback.

<https://thediplomat.com/2021/12/time-to-confront-southeast-asias-online-wildlife-trafficking/>

Drones Offer Extra Eyes in Illegal Fishing Battle

Africa Defense Forum: 8 December 2021

As many African nations struggle to control illegal fishing, some are turning to drones as a relatively cheap way to conduct surveillance over vast expanses of ocean.

<https://adf-magazine.com/2021/12/drones-offer-extra-eyes-in-illegal-fishing-battle/>

For more on this theme:

Lethal remedy: Concern over African trade in traditional Chinese medicine that contains threatened species

<https://mg.co.za/environment/2021-12-05-lethal-remedy-concern-over-african-trade-in-traditional-chinese-medicine-that-contains-threatened-species/>

Time is running out for primates, bears and songbirds in Vietnamese wildlife hotspot

<https://phys.org/news/2021-12-primates-songbirds-vietnamese-wildlife-hotspot.html>

Using Wood Forensics Science to Deter Corruption and Illegality in the Timber Trade

<https://www.traffic.org/news/funding-wood-forensics-could-curb-corruption-in-timber-trade-and-help-save-global-forests-from-illegal-trade/>

For Indigenous Zoró, the Brazil nut is a weapon against deforestation

<https://news.mongabay.com/2021/12/for-indigenous-zoro-the-brazil-nut-is-a-weapon-against-deforestation/>

Hundreds of companies promised to help save forests. Did they?

<https://www.wionews.com/world/hundreds-of-companies-promised-to-help-save-forests-did-they-433782>

Seafood2030: How technology, government efforts, and market action are aligning to address IUU fishing

<https://www.seafoodsource.com/news/environment-sustainability/seafood2030-how-technology-government-efforts-and-market-action-are-aligning-to-address-iuu-fishing>

Major seafood players alleged to be connected to IUU fishing in Planet Tracker report

<https://www.seafoodsource.com/news/environment-sustainability/major-seafood-players-alleged-to-be-connected-to-iuu-fishing-in-planet-tracker-report>

Major clothing brands contribute to deforestation in Cambodia, report finds

<https://news.mongabay.com/2021/12/major-clothing-brands-contribute-to-deforestation-in-cambodia-report-finds/>

For Mekong officials fighting timber traffickers, a chance to level up

<https://news.mongabay.com/2021/12/for-mekong-officials-fighting-timber-traffickers-a-chance-to-level-up/>

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND IRREGULAR MIGRATION

Sex traffickers target teenage girls in Nigeria's IDP Camp

Jennifer Ugwa – International Centre for Investigative Reporting: 15 December 2021

Human trafficking earns roughly \$150 billion a year for traffickers, according to a 2017 report by the International Labor Organization. Women and girls in camps for internally displaced people are especially vulnerable, lured by assurances of lucrative employment as domestic workers, waitresses or hotel maids.

<https://www.icirnigeria.org/sex-traffickers-target-teenage-girls-in-nigerias-idp-camp/>

Afghanistan: heroin and human trafficking are the only two sectors of the economy still thriving

Jonathan Goodhand and Jan Koehler – The Conversation: 13 December 2021

In the frontier town of Zaranj on Afghanistan's border with Iran, young men jostle one another as they cram into pickups that leave at regular intervals to be smuggled across the border. Human trafficking is one of the few sectors of the Afghan economy that is thriving. Another is drugs.

<https://theconversation.com/afghanistan-heroin-and-human-trafficking-are-the-only-two-sectors-of-the-economy-still-thriving-173367>

For more on this theme:

Surge in offshoring sees Australian economy become dependent on modern slavery

<https://www.news.com.au/finance/economy/australian-economy/surge-in-offshoring-sees-australian-economy-become-dependent-on-modern-slavery/news-story/53a16ca910e5ee08f-1993f35368c8018>

Interview: 'My duty is to continue exposing the abuse of the Uyghur people'

<https://www.rfa.org/english/news/uyghur/nursat-ghani-12012021172457.html>

Malaysia's unseen modern slaves

<https://www.freemalaysiatoday.com/category/opinion/2021/12/04/malaysias-unseen-modern-slaves/>

'No Reason To Stay': Taliban Repression, Economic Collapse Accelerate Exodus From Afghanistan

<https://gandhara.rferl.org/a/afghanistan-exodus-taliban-repression-economy/31590988.html>

Modern Slavery: Leave to Remain

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nationality-and-borders-bill-modern-slavery-leave-to-remain-factsheet/modern-slavery-leave-to-remain>

First Person: 'Trafficking is a crime that can happen in front of our eyes'

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/12/1107042>

Call it 'old', 'contemporary', 'modern' or whatever: It is slavery

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/12/03/opinion/columns/call-it-old-contemporary-modern-or-whatever-it-is-slavery/1824498>

The fight against forced labor and modern slavery

<https://www.brookings.edu/podcast-episode/the-fight-against-forced-labor-and-modern-slavery/>

PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

INTERNET FREEDOM

IOC Says Olympic Athletes Will Be Safe and Free to Express Opinions in Beijing

Chad de Guzman – Time magazine: 10 December 2021

Olympic athletes will be safe and free to express their opinions at the 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing, International Olympic Committee member Dick Pound tells Time magazine. One caveat: They must observe the laws in the host nation, China.

<https://time.com/6127384/olympics-china-freedom-speech/>

For more on this theme:

(China, Global) The Metaverse Gives China a New Digital Playground to Censor

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/newsletters/2021-12-10/china-metaverse-offers-new-digital-playground-for-censorship>

(India) Online censorship is growing in Modi's India

<https://www.cjr.org/investigation/modi-censorship-india-twitter.php>

(Turkey) Turkey's president Erdogan proclaims social media is a 'threat to democracy'

<https://morningstaronline.co.uk/article/w/turkeys-president-erdogan-proclaims-social-media-threat-democracy>

CYBERSECURITY

It's time for tech to embrace security by design

Mark Sullivan – TechCrunch: 10 December 2021

Cybercriminals are getting more and more adept at exploiting the latest trend or issue to spread malware and steal personal data from unsuspecting users. Basic cybersecurity hygiene is the key to protecting your devices against the most common types of malware, but we also need security built into technology to prevent these sophisticated cyberattacks.

<https://techcrunch.com/2021/12/10/its-time-for-tech-to-embrace-security-by-design/>

For more on this theme:

(Global) EXPLAINER: The security flaw that's freaked out the internet

<https://apnews.com/article/technology-business-software-hacking-343949ddd8446e50eb-70823601d15ef3>

(U.K., Germany) Many SMBs admit they are getting lazy with cybersecurity

<https://www.techradar.com/news/many-smbs-admit-they-are-getting-lazy-with-cybersecurity>

(U.S.) Banks Must Report Cyber Incidents Beginning in May 2022

<https://www.govtech.com/blogs/lohrmann-on-cybersecurity/banks-must-report-cyber-incidents-beginning-in-may-2022>

PRIVACY

Norway fines Grindr for \$7.3 million over privacy breach

Tonya Riley – CyberScoop: 15 December 2021

Norway's data protection agency is fining LGBTQ+ social app Grindr nearly \$7.1 million for unlawfully disclosing personal data to third parties for marketing.

<https://www.cyberscoop.com/grindr-norway-gdpr-violation-fine/>

For more on this theme:

(Global) 3 ways to get consumers to trust internet-connected devices

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2021/12/3-ways-to-get-consumers-to-trust-internet-connected-devices/>

(India) Government to implement mobile privacy and security initiative: Rajesh Pant

<https://telecom.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/government-to-implement-mobile-privacy-and-security-initiative-rajesh-pant/88202561>

(U.S.) Ad Platform OpenX Faces \$2 Million FTC Fine Over Kids' Privacy (1)

<https://news.bloomberglaw.com/privacy-and-data-security/ad-platform-openx-faces-2-million-ftc-fine-over-kids-privacy>

CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING

IMF, 10 countries simulate cyberattack on global financial system

Steven Scheer – Reuters: 9 December 2021

Israel led a 10-country simulation of a major cyberattack on the global financial system to increase cooperation in minimizing potential damage to financial markets and banks.

<https://www.reuters.com/markets/europe/exclusive-imf-10-countries-simulate-cyber-attack-global-financial-system-2021-12-09/>

For more on this theme:

(U.S.) New cyber security command center up and running protecting city from cyber attacks

<https://news4sanantonio.com/news/local/new-cyber-security-command-center-up-and-running-protecting-city-from-cyber-attacks-cps-energy-utilities-san-antonio-power-electricity-technology>

(Australia, Global) Why education providers must focus on cybersecurity

<https://moodle.com/news/why-education-providers-cybersecurity/>

(U.K, China, Russia) Cyber review says UK and west in 'clash of values' with Russia and China

<https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2021/dec/14/cyber-review-warns-uk-and-west-in-clash-of-values-with-russia-and-china>

(U.S.) US government to offer up to \$5,000 'bounty' to hackers to identify cyber vulnerabilities

<https://www.cnn.com/2021/12/14/politics/dhs-bug-bounty-hackers-cyber-vulnerabilities/index.html>

CYBERATTACKS, THREATS AND VULNERABILITIES

Irish health cyber-attack could have been even worse, report says

Gordon Corera – BBC: 11 December 2021

An independent report into a cyberattack on Ireland's health service in May has found the consequences could have been even worse.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/technology-59612917>

For more on this theme:

(Canada) Thousands of Canadian websites offline over cybersecurity threat

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/politics/article-thousands-of-canadian-websites-offline-over-cybersecurity-threat/>

(Australia) Personal details of up to 80,000 SA government employees accessed in cyber attack

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-12-10/thousands-of-sa-government-employees-affected-by-cyber-attack/100690564>

(Germany, Global) Cyber-Attack on Hellmann Worldwide Logistics

<https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/news/cyberattack-on-hellmann-worldwide/>

PROTECTION OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Improving security posture post-pandemic in the water utility sector

Jeremy Wolfe – Security Info Watch: 15 December 2021

With digital solutions as an important part of water management, how can facilities defend against cyberattacks without significant spending?

<https://www.securityinfowatch.com/critical-infrastructure/article/21250355/improving-security-posture-postpandemic-in-the-water-utility-sector>

For more on this theme:

(Australia) SBN New reforms will enhance the security and resilience of Australia's critical infrastructure

<https://securityboulevard.com/2021/12/new-reforms-will-enhance-the-security-and-resilience-of-australias-critical-infrastructure/>

(U.S.) GAO: Critical infrastructure threats require a national cyber strategy

<https://federalnewsnetwork.com/cybersecurity/2021/12/gao-critical-infrastructure-threats-require-a-national-cyber-strategy/>

(U.K.) Home Affairs releases second Critical Infrastructure Bill with leftover obligations

<https://www.zdnet.com/article/home-affairs-releases-second-critical-infrastructure-bill-with-leftover-obligations/>

(U.S.) Cyberattacks on our energy infrastructure: The need for a national response to a national security threat

<https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/energysource/cyberattacks-on-our-energy-infrastructure/>

PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

ISIS AND FOREIGN FIGHTERS

Mozambique jihadis kidnap 600 women, girls since 2018: report

Deutsche Welle: 7 December 2021

A group with alleged ties to the Islamic State group has enslaved and sexually abused hundreds of women and girls in Mozambique over the past three years, Human Rights Watch said.

<https://www.dw.com/en/mozambique-jihadis-kidnap-600-women-girls-since-2018-report/a-60041923>

Sinai tribes hunt Islamic State bomb makers

Amr Emam – Al-Monitor: 11 December 2021

Sinai tribes join the hunt for Islamic State group explosives engineers, potentially depriving the terrorist group of its last technique in its fight against the Egyptian Army.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2021/12/sinai-tribes-hunt-islamic-state-bomb-makers>

For more on this theme:

ISIS has Uganda, and Central Africa, in its sights

<https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/isis-has-uganda-and-central-africa-in-its-sights>

Explainer-Who Are Islamic State's Affiliates in Congo and Uganda?

<https://www.usnews.com/news/world/articles/2021-12-01/explainer-who-are-islamic-states-affiliates-in-congo-and-uganda>

Islamic State Threatens Africa

<https://thebannercsi.com/2021/12/04/islamic-state-threatens-africa/>

The Rise and Rise of the Islamic State's Khorasan Province

<https://aijac.org.au/australia-israel-review/the-rise-and-rise-of-the-islamic-states-khorasan-province/>

The Taliban's unconvincing war on ISIS-K

<https://asiatimes.com/2021/12/the-talibans-unconvincing-war-on-isis-k/>

Growing IS Attacks Put Kurdish, Iraqi Authorities on Alert

<https://www.voanews.com/a/growing-is-attacks-put-kurdish-iraqi-authorities-on-alert-/6345356.html>

Islamic State continues anti-Taliban PR push, with Tashkent in crosshairs

<https://eurasianet.org/perspectives-islamic-state-continues-anti-taliban-pr-push-with-tashkent-in-crosshairs>

Africa File: Libya foothold creates options for the Islamic State in northwestern Africa

<https://www.criticalthreats.org/briefs/africa-file/africa-file-libya-foothold-creates-options-for-the-islamic-state-in-northwestern-africa>

TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

Taliban rule marked by killings, 'litany of abuses', UN says

Al Jazeera: 14 December 2021

In addition to extrajudicial killings, the Taliban is also responsible for hindering women's rights in Afghanistan, the United Nations says.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/12/14/taliban-rule-marked-by-killings-litany-of-abuses-un-says>

Anticipating Future Directions of Tech-Enabled Terror

Don Ressler and Muhammad al-'Ubaydi – Lawfare: 12 December 2021

In their desperate search for advantage, terrorists often use new technologies or employ old technologies in new ways. They frequently fail, but when they innovate successfully, it can prove devastating.

<https://www.lawfareblog.com/anticipating-future-directions-tech-enabled-terror>

For more on this theme:

Afghanistan: Why Taliban's Return To Power Will Have Impact On Jihadist Threat In Western Europe – Analysis

<https://www.eurasiareview.com/06122021-afghanistan-why-talibans-return-to-power-will-have-impact-on-jihadist-threat-in-western-europe-analysis/>

The Cleric of Jihadism: Abdallah Azzam and Global Jihad

<https://amuedge.com/the-cleric-of-jihadism-abdallah-azzam-and-global-jihad/>

Hezbollah is a threat to Latin America – opinion

<https://www.jpost.com/opinion/hezbollah-is-a-threat-to-latin-america-opinion-688022>

In militants' hands, drones emerge as a deadly new wild card in the Middle East

https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/iran-drones-iraq-militias/2021/12/06/5685e772-5469-11ec-8769-2f4ecdf7a2ad_story.html

Israel: Hamas Militia Operates In Lebanon Under Hezbollah's Cover

<https://english.aawsat.com/home/article/3340776/israel-hamas-militia-operates-lebanon-under-hezbollah%E2%80%99s-cover>

Arab states fear resurgence of jihadi forces post-Taliban takeover of Afghanistan

<https://www.aninews.in/news/world/asia/arab-states-fear-resurgence-of-jihadi-forces-post-taliban-takeover-of-afghanistan20211210005516/>

The Big Read: Jemaah Islamiyah emerges from the shadows, playing the long game

<https://www.todayonline.com/big-read/big-read-jemaah-islamiyah-emerges-shadows-playing-long-game-1767826>

GCC Calls on Lebanon to Prevent Hezbollah From Conducting 'Terrorist Operations'

<https://www.usnews.com/news/world/articles/2021-12-14/gcc-calls-on-lebanon-to-prevent-hezbollah-from-conducting-terrorist-operations>

RADICALIZATION

Getting Goudoumaria right: are Boko Haram defectors reintegrating safely?

Jeannine Ella Abatan and Remadji Hoinathy – Institute for Security Studies: 8 December 2021

Since 2015, fighters, associates and people trapped or kidnapped have been leaving Boko Haram. And since the death this year of Abubakar Shekau, defections have increased dramatically – especially in Cameroon and Nigeria. This has created a window of opportunity to encourage further defections and weaken the extremists.

<https://issafrica.org/iss-today/getting-goudoumaria-right-are-boko-haram-defectors-reintegrating-safely>

For more on this theme:

Climate change ‘aggravating factor for terrorism’: UN chief

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/12/1107592>

Kosovo Urged to Keep up its Guard against Radicalisation

<https://balkaninsight.com/2021/12/14/kosovo-urged-to-keep-up-its-guard-against-radicalisation/>

Far-Right European Youth Groups Using Mix of Social Media Platforms to Lure Peers to Racist, Antisemitic Ideologies, Report Reveals

<https://www.algemeiner.com/2021/12/14/far-right-european-youth-groups-using-mix-of-social-media-platforms-to-lure-peers-to-racist-antisemitic-ideologies-report-reveals/>

Preventing violent extremism in south-eastern Senegal

<https://issafrica.org/iss-today/preventing-violent-extremism-in-south-eastern-senegal>

IRREGULAR WARFARE: PROXY FORCES AND PRIVATE MILITARY GROUPS

Russian Mercenaries Threaten CAR Stability Over Alleged Civilian Abuses

Mohammed Yusuf – Voice of America: 11 December 2021

Russia’s influence in the Central African Republic (CAR) is growing as the country grapples with insurgents. The CAR government hired the Wagner Group, a Russian mercenary contractor, for security. But Wagner’s alleged rights violations, such as killing civilians, aid workers and journalists, have caused tensions with CAR’s Western supporters and an uproar at home.

<https://www.voanews.com/a/russian-mercenaries-threaten-car-stability-over-alleged-civilian-abuses-6349193.html>

For more on this theme:

EU slaps sanctions on Russian mercenary group Wagner

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/12/13/eu-slaps-sanctions-on-russian-mercenary-wagner-group>

US Warns Mali on Accepting Russia’s Wagner Mercenaries

<https://www.thedefensepost.com/2021/12/16/us-warns-mali-wagner/>

Over 7,000 Russian mercenaries still in Libya: Al-Mishri

<https://www.dailysabah.com/world/africa/over-7000-russian-mercenaries-still-in-libya-al-mishri>

IRREGULAR WARFARE: INFORMATION OPERATIONS AND MALIGN INFLUENCE

US Imposes Arms Embargo on Cambodia, Citing Chinese Military Ties

Sebastian Strangio – The Diplomat: 9 December 2021

The United States government has imposed an arms embargo on Cambodia, citing long-standing concerns about human rights, corruption and China's growing influence in the country.

<https://thediplomat.com/2021/12/us-imposes-arms-embargo-on-cambodia-citing-chinese-military-ties/>

For more on this theme:

Russia-Africa Relations: 'Geopolitical Arena With Many Players Operating'

<https://www.eurasiareview.com/06122021-russia-africa-relations-geopolitical-arena-with-many-players-operating-interview/>

Russia's Influence in Azerbaijan Makes Lasting Peace Unlikely

<https://www.heritage.org/global-politics/commentary/russias-influence-azerbaijan-makes-lasting-peace-unlikely>

NATO chief: "Russia has no right to establish a sphere of influence"

<https://www.axios.com/nato-russia-ukraine-invasion-18619fd7-be80-4d37-86f8-fcebc1f8e8a.html>

UK independent body: China committed genocide in Xinjiang

<https://apnews.com/article/europe-religion-china-genocides-xi-jinping-9f20b0f7a77b1071ad-32c81241678f3b>

Antony Blinken warns China to stop 'aggressive actions' in Asia-Pacific

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