

**21 May 2023**

**UK: MAJOR TORY DONOR INVESTIGATED OVER FRAUD AND MONEY LAUNDERING ALLEGATIONS**

On 20 May, the Guardian reported that a leading Tory donor who has given more than £220,000 to the party is being investigated over allegations of fraud and money laundering. Karan Chanana, head of the global rice brand Amira, is being investigated in India. The news comes after authorities conducted searches at 21 locations in India connected to Chanana, the Indian company Amira Pure Foods and other parties.

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2023/may/20/major-tory-donor-investigated-over-and-money-laundering-allegations>

**A GUIDE TO IDENTIFYING WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION PRODUCED BY THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA (DPRK)**

Conflict Arms Research has released an updated version of this guide which provides diagrams showing distinguishing features of AK-pattern small arms, small-calibre ammunition (7.62 mm to 14.5 mm), and medium to large calibre ammunition (40 mm rockets and 130 mm artillery ammunition). Diagrams also show distinguishing features of packaging, including false descriptions of package contents.

Meanwhile, CAR also reported that field investigators in north-east Syria have identified a significant number of Type 68 assault rifles, manufactured in North Korea. These rifles are rarely observed in CAR's global data set, and their presence in relatively high quantities in these seizures is particularly unusual.

[https://www.conflictarm.com/download-file/?report\\_id=3462&file\\_id=3470](https://www.conflictarm.com/download-file/?report_id=3462&file_id=3470)

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/296f328758e143a185d2a31fe5b04fc9>

**INDIA: WILL GOVERNMENT WITHDRAWING THE RS.2000 BANKNOTES ROOT OUT CORRUPTION?**

An OpEd from Eurasia Review on 21 May asked this question. It says that the government has been taking special efforts to promote digitalisation and direct transfer of funds through electronic media, but the amount of cash in circulation remains high. Now the Rs.2000 note is being withdrawn, with the deadline being 30 September. However, the article argues that it should not undo the benefit by replacing the withdrawn Rs.2000 currency by printing lower denomination notes.

<https://www.eurasiareview.com/21052023-india-will-governments-withdrawing-rs-2000-banknotes-root-out-corruption-oped/>

## **UK: NCA OFFICERS HAVE UNCOVERED A SPECIALIST FACTORY IN SOUTH LONDON FOR CONVERTING BLANK-FIRING GUNS INTO LETHAL WEAPONS USING 3D-PRINTED PARTS**

A news release from NCA on 20 May announced that it had uncovered the works in Croydon.

<https://nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/news/nca-raid-suspected-gun-factory-in-south-london>

## **CONTROLLING CRITICAL TECHNOLOGY IN AN AGE OF GEO-ECONOMICS: ACTORS, TOOLS, AND SCENARIOS**

This report from the Swedish Institute of International Affairs says that the world is witnessing an escalating great power rivalry surrounding critical technologies – such as quantum computing, semiconductors, and artificial intelligence. This report analyses how critical technology is protected in the Trans-Atlantic region and assesses the resulting effects. The focus is placed on the US and the EU, examining 3 key geoeconomic instruments: export controls, investment screening, and domestic subsidies, all aimed at securing their critical technological base.

<https://www.ui.se/globalassets/butiken/ui-report/2023/ui-report-no.1-2023.pdf>



## **CORRUPTION IN URBAN PLANNING: A GUIDE FOR PROFESSIONAL AND TRAINEE PLANNERS**

On 6 April, Transparency International published this guide, which says that planning systems are particularly prone to corruption. With a focus on sub-Saharan Africa, this guide has been created to equip prospective and established urban planning professionals - from the public, private and civic sectors - with the necessary knowledge, tools and tactics to recognise and push back against corrupt

practices in their day-to-day work, and within the planning and urban development sector more generally.

<https://www.transparency.org/en/publications/corruption-in-urban-planning-a-guide-for-professional-and-trainee-planners>

### **HOW SANCTIONS HAVE CHANGED THE FACE OF CHINESE COMPANIES IN RUSSIA**

On 18 May, an article from Carnegie Politika says that, while few Chinese companies have left Russia, and some have even increased their presence following the exodus of Western businesses, even state-owned enterprises are finding it increasingly difficult to keep flying under the sanctions radar. It says that international sanctions regulators are likely to increase scrutiny this year, in particular of Chinese companies, many of which continue to operate in Russia, unlike their Western counterparts. It says that it seems that, wherever possible, Chinese companies are taking advantage of the short-term benefits of the Russian market, while striving to comply with international sanctions.

<https://carnegieendowment.org/politika/89785>

### **ILLICIT DEALINGS IN GOLD, DIAMOND, RUBIES AND ASSOCIATED MONEY LAUNDERING AND TERRORIST FINANCING IN EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA**

On 26 March, FATF-style regional body ESAAMLG published this report, dated September 2022, which aims to depict the financial flows that fuel crimes such as illicit dealings in gold, diamond and rubies and related money laundering/terrorism financing in the ESAAMLG region. The report includes a list of risk indicators and case studies that can help the concerned institutions in the Region to identify and investigate illicit activities in the precious stones and metals (PMS) markets, and also highlights the importance of rapidly identifying and tracing PMS involved in money laundering or terrorist financing.

[https://www.esaamlg.org/reports/ILLICIT\\_DEALING\\_SEPT\\_2022.pdf](https://www.esaamlg.org/reports/ILLICIT_DEALING_SEPT_2022.pdf)

<https://www.buymeacoffee.com/KolvM842y>

