

29 OCTOBER 2023

ARGENTINA: MAN CAUGHT BY CUSTOMS SMUGGLING 5 LITRES OF DOG SEMEN

On 28 October, Yahoo News reported that a Peruvian travelling from Uruguay had been stopped at the seaport in Buenos Aires. In May, a Uruguayan was found with 60 sachets of pig semen at the border between Argentina and Uruguay.

<https://au.news.yahoo.com/tourist-caught-by-customs-smuggling-five-litres-of-dog-semen-032335077.html>

JAMAICA REMAINS ON FATF GREY LIST PENDING FINAL ACTIONS

On 29 October, the Jamaica Observer reported that the issue of beneficial ownership of non-financial businesses is the one item holding up removal from the grey list.

<https://www.jamaicaobserver.com/business/one-more-step-2/>

LAW SOCIETY OF ENGLAND AND WALES PROVIDES GUIDANCE ON CLIMATE RISK GOVERNANCE AND GREENWASHING RISKS

On 27 October, Osborne Clarke reported that the Law Society had provided guidance for in-house and private practice solicitors on advising clients on mitigating the risk of greenwashing and how best to advise on climate risk governance, which should be read in conjunction with its guide to solicitors on their professional duties in the context of climate change.

<https://www.osborneclarke.com/insights/law-society-england-and-wales-provides-guidance-climate-risk-governance-and-greenwashing>

UN WARNS OF GROWING MONEY LAUNDERING, SHADOW BANKING RISK FROM MEKONG CASINOS

On 29 October, the VoA reported that transnational criminal gangs are using SE Asia's booming and increasingly digital gambling industry as a shadow banking system to covertly move and launder ever more dirty money, UN officials have told VOA. UNODC believes the region's casinos and online gambling sites now handle tens, if not hundreds, of billions of dollars in returns a year from illegal gambling, drug trafficking, cyberscams and other organised crime.

<https://www.voanews.com/a/un-warns-of-growing-money-laundering-shadow-banking-risk-from-mekong-casinos/7331663.html>

US: IMPORTS PRODUCED BY FORCED LABOUR

On 25 October, a briefing from the US Congressional Research Service was concerned with section 307 of the Tariff Act of 1930 which prohibits importing any product that was mined, produced, or manufactured wholly or in part by forced labour, including forced or indentured child labour. US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) enforces the prohibition.

Figure 1. Application of Section 307



Source: CRS, based on CBP.

<https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/download/IF/IF11360/IF11360.pdf/>

CLUSTER MUNITIONS: BACKGROUND AND ISSUES FOR US CONGRESS

On 25 October, a briefing from the US Congressional Research Service was concerned with cluster munitions, which are air-dropped or ground-launched weapons that release a number of smaller submunitions intended to kill enemy personnel or destroy vehicles. The Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM), which bans the use of cluster munitions, entered into force in 2010, but the US is not a party to the Convention.

<https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/download/RS/RS22907/RS22907.pdf/>

UNDERSTANDING THE IRANIAN REGIME'S ACCESS TO MONEY AROUND THE WORLD AND HOW THEY USE IT TO SUPPORT TERRORISM

On 26 October, a briefing from the US Congressional Research Service was concerned with the testimony from a specialist in Middle Eastern Affairs before the House of Representatives' Committee on Financial Services, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations. It looks at the background for US sanctions and Iranian assets abroad and the \$6 Billion of Iranian funds the subject of a recent agreement for use for humanitarian purposes, and developments since the Hamas attack on Israel.

<https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/download/TE/TE10088/TE10088.pdf/>

IRELAND: CRIMINAL ASSETS BUUREAU ANNUAL REPORT - SUSPECTED CRIMINALS WITH TAX BILLS FOR €8.9 MILLION

On 29 October, the Irish Mirror reported on the CAB annual report saying that it shows that it returned €6.3 million in cash to the Exchequer last year that it had seized from suspected criminals; with suspected criminals given with tax bills for €8.9 million last year – including demands of almost €3 million against suspected drugs dealers.

<https://www.irishmirror.ie/news/irish-news/cab-tax-bill-suspected-criminals-31310607>

US HALTS EXPORT OF MOST CIVILIAN FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION FOR 90 DAYS

On 29 October, the Guardian reported that the US has stopped issuing export licences for most civilian firearms and ammunition for 90 days for all non-governmental users, citing national security and foreign policy interests. The pause also includes shotguns and optical sights. An urgent review will assess the “risk of firearms being diverted to entities or activities that promote regional instability, violate human rights, or fuel criminal activities”.

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2023/oct/29/us-commerce-department-firearms-ammunition-export-halt>

8 INDIANS GIVEN DEATH PENALTY IN QATAR AND CHARGED WITH SPYING FOR ISRAEL

On 27 October, India Today reported that 8 former Indian Navy personnel sentenced to death in Qatar were charged with allegedly spying for Israel, news agency Reuters reported. They were arrested by the Qatari intelligence agency in August 2022. However, charges against them were not officially disclosed.

<https://www.indiatoday.in/amp/india/story/indian-navy-personnel-death-penalty-in-qatar-spying-for-israel-report-mea-2454606-2023-10-27>

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A (VERY) MODEST CONTRIBUTION FOR MY TIME AND COSTS, YOU

CAN “BUY ME A COFFEE”

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