

21 April 2024

US POISED TO IMPOSE SANCTIONS ON IDF UNIT ACCUSED OF VIOLATIONS IN WEST BANK

On 21 April, The Guardian and others reported that a unit of the Israeli Defense Forces is facing US sanctions over its treatment of Palestinians in the occupied West Bank. It says that State Department officials have confirmed they are preparing to impose sanctions on the Netzah Yehuda battalion, which has been accused of serious human rights violations against Palestinians. Meanwhile, Haaretz in Israel reported that the US is considering measures against other military and police units.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2024/apr/21/us-poised-impose-sanctions-israel-defense-force-netzah-yehuda-battalion>

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ZIMBABWE HAS REQUESTED THE US REMIND BANKS THAT WASHINGTON HAS RECENTLY EASED SOME OF ITS SANCTIONS IN MARCH

On 20 April, Business Line Africa reported that Zimbabwean officials met with representatives from the US Treasury to make the request. It pointed out, however, that sanctions were still applied to President Emmerson Mnangagwa and other senior officials.

<https://africa.businessinsider.com/local/markets/zimbabwe-calls-on-us-for-help-in-notifying-banks-of-sanctions-relief/tzlx0h1>

HEATHROW AIRPORT DOESN'T CHECK OUTBOUND SUITCASES FOR CASH

On 21 April, the Wall Street Journal carried an article criticising UK AML efforts and highlighting UK-Dubai flights, where the UK does not scan outgoing cases and Dubai incoming cases.

<https://www.wsj.com/business/airlines/heathrow-dubai-airports-billions-dirty-money-9f49cc7f>

COURT ACTION RAISES QUESTIONS ABOUT CONSTITUTIONAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN JERSEY AND UK

On 21 April, the Jersey Evening Post reported that questions about the constitutional relationship with the UK are likely to come under the spotlight in the Court of Appeal as a result of a dispute over stamp duty on second homes. A judge has described as surprising that, in questioning the legality of a budget law measure, this has opened the door on much deeper questions about how free the Island is to take its own political decisions and act independently of Westminster.

<https://jerseyeveningpost.com/news/2024/04/21/court-action-raises-questions-about-constitutional-relationship-between-jersey-and-uk/>

THE 400+ COMPANIES SOURCING HIGH-RISK XUAR GOLD MOST HEAVILY CONCENTRATED IN A FEW TOP MARKETS, INCLUDING THE UK, GERMANY, THE NETHERLANDS, MEXICO, AND FRANCE

On 17 April, a follow-up report from C4ADS set out to use financial reporting to uncover the global reach of Chinese gold produced by Uyghur forced labour. It argues that, because of the concentration of countries and companies it found, these have outsized power to act as bottlenecks and stop forced labour goods from flowing into global supply chains.

<https://c4ads.org/commentary/fault-lines/>

ESWATINI: HOW THE CENTRAL BANK TRIED TO BLOCK A SUSPICIOUS BANKING VENTURE

On 15 April, ICIJ carried a report about a project called the Farmers Bank, which was supposed to rival the big, established high-street banks operating in Eswatini — mostly South African banks. The central bank was alarmed by a litany of discrepancies in the application for a banking licence, and in trying to put the brakes on the process, ran up against the political interests of King Mswati III and his associates.

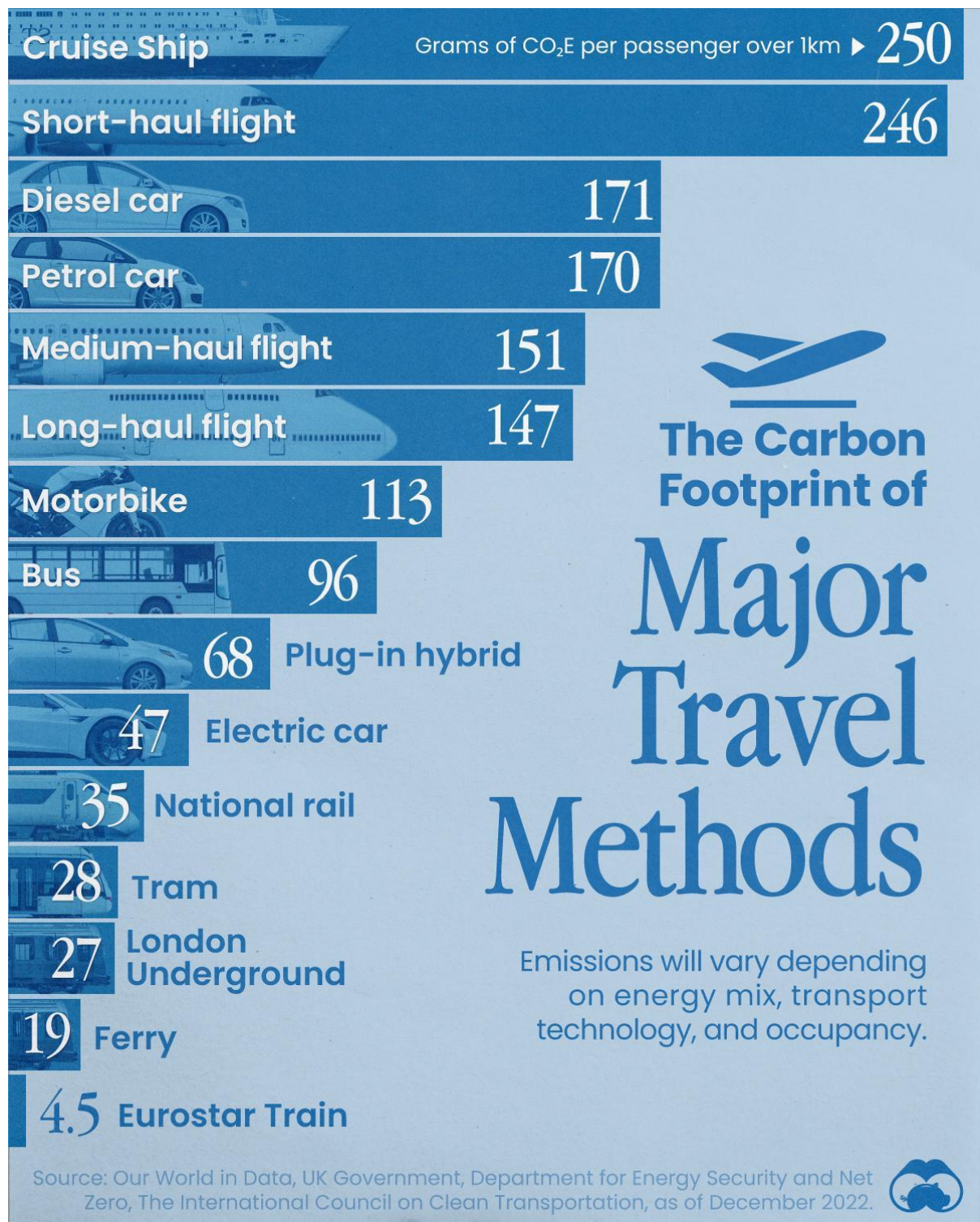
<https://www.icij.org/investigations/swazi-secrets/eswatini-farmers-bank-rijkenberg-belumbu/>

ITALY: EPPO FREEZES MORE THAN €7 MILLION FROM FREIGHT FORWARDING COMPANY SUSPECTED OF SMUGGLING TEXTILES

On 9 April, the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) advised of a freezing order of €7.3 million on the bank accounts of a freight forwarding company suspected of VAT fraud relating to the illegal importation of fabric from China. The suspects are the owners and managers of customs shipping companies in Italy, operating with Chinese entrepreneurs who are also under investigation for the same offences. They are suspected of smuggling, ideological forgery, and the issuing and use of invoices for non-existent operations.

<https://www.epo.europa.eu/en/news/italy-epo-freezes-more-eu7-million-freight-forwarding-company-suspected-smuggling-textiles>

THE MOST CARBON-INTENSIVE TRAVEL METHOD

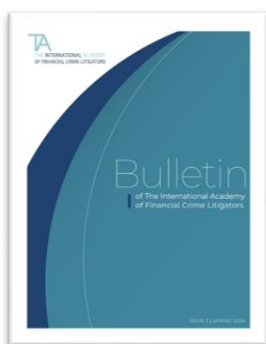


<https://posts.voronoiaapp.com/climate/Cruise-Ships-Are-The-Most-Carbon-Intensive-Travel-Method-1036>

BULLETIN OF THE INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY OF FINANCIAL CRIME LITIGATORS

The Spring 2024 edition of this publication, published in Paris, includes the following –

- the US Foreign Extortion Prevention Act (FEPA) – key offences, definitions, and relation to FCPA;
- Contours of a future Swiss Deferred Prosecution Agreement (DPA) regime - the Attorney General the intention to promote the introduction of a DPA regime and described the anticipated contours;
- A Primer on Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties and Letters Rogatory



<https://edit.financialcrimelitigators.org/api/assets/ecf0bb58-2c32-4239-a6c8-83417ad9278d.pdf>

Comparing the Key Features of MLATs and Letters Rogatory

Issue	MLAT	Letter Rogatory
Nature of instrument?	Bilateral cooperation treaty	Issued by state and federal courts as a matter of comity (and with the expectation of reciprocity)
Scope of use?	The primary method of obtaining foreign evidence and other assistance	Available to all parties in criminal and civil matters
Nature of judicial involvement?	U.S. district courts supervise issuance and execution only of incoming requests	Federal and state judiciaries supervise issuance and execution of outgoing and incoming requests
Available to criminal defendants?	No (except pursuant to the first three MLATS the United States signed)	Yes; in fact, is the primary formal means for defendants to obtain foreign evidence
Available to civil litigants?	No	Yes
Available to prosecutors?	Yes	Yes
Must a case have been filed for assistance to be available?	No	Yes
Available pre-indictment (during investigative phase)?	Yes	No
Efficient method of obtaining evidence?	Relatively speaking, yes	No, generally slow and cumbersome
Processed through diplomatic channels?	Always	Almost always

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