

6 April 2024

2 ARRESTED IN SPAIN MONEY LAUNDERING PROBE LINKED TO VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT

The Business Times in Singapore reported that police have arrested 2 people and raided several homes in Madrid as part of an investigation into suspected money laundering linked to the Venezuelan government. It is said to be in cooperation with authorities in Portugal and the US. Newspaper reports claim that the investigation is focused on the family of Venezuelan tycoon Roberto Rincon.

<https://www.businesstimes.com.sg/international/two-arrested-spain-money-laundering-probe-linked-venezuelan-government>

SANCTIONS: EU IS MOVING CLOSER TO SETTING MINIMUM LEVELS OF MAXIMUM CRIMINAL PENALTIES

On 4 April, law firm HFW published an article saying that, historically, the implementation and enforcement of EU sanctions, including the setting of penalties, has been the sole competence of individual Member States. The EU is looking to change that, however, and on 12 March, the European Parliament adopted a directive to criminalise the violation and circumvention of EU sanctions, and to set minimum penalties for violations.

<https://www.hfw.com/downloads/005860-HFW-EU-sanctions-enforcement-ever-closer-union-April-2024.pdf>

MONTENEGRO: AUTHORITIES DETAIN LAWYER FOR HIS ALLEGED INVOLVEMENT IN LAUNDERING €2.6 MILLION LINKED TO THE COUNTRY'S INFAMOUS CRIMINAL RINGS

On 5 April, OCCRP reported that the lawyer had previously represented Radoje Zvicer, the fugitive leader of the Kavač clan, one of the 2 major crime groups from Montenegro.

<https://www.occrp.org/en/daily/18631-montenegro-nabs-alleged-kavac-clan-lawyer>

ECUADOR ARRESTS JUDGES, LAWYERS, AND POLICE OFFICERS FOR HELPING CRIMINALS

On 5 April, OCCRP reported that more than a dozen individuals, including judges, police officers and lawyers, had been arrested for allegedly running a criminal network within Ecuador's judicial system that helped dangerous criminals to get out of prison through shady legal manoeuvres.

<https://www.occrp.org/en/daily/18630-ecuador-arrests-judges-lawyers-and-police-officers-for-helping-criminals>

SPANISH POLICE RECOVER NEARLY 200 LOOTED ARCHAEOLOGICAL PIECES

On 5 April, OCCRP reported that Spanish authorities had recovered 191 trafficked archaeological pieces that were offered for sale on social media networks in Seville. Among the recovered objects were prehistoric, medieval, and modern pieces, as well as pre-Roman and Roman artifacts. It is said that the trafficking of antiquities, fossils and patrimonial artifacts is gaining momentum in Spain.

<https://www.occrp.org/en/daily/18629-spanish-police-recover-nearly-200-looted-archaeological-pieces>

MEXICO SUSPENDS DIPLOMATIC TIES WITH ECUADOR AFTER POLICE RAID EMBASSY TO DETAIN FORMER VICE-PRESIDENT JORGE GLAS

On 6 April, the Guardian reported that police forcibly broke into the country's embassy in Quito to detain former Ecuadorian Vice-President Jorge Glas. Glas, convicted twice for corruption, had been holed up in the embassy in Quito since seeking political asylum in December, arguing he was being persecuted by the attorney general's office.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2024/apr/06/mexico-suspends-diplomatic-ties-with-ecuador-after-police-raid-embassy>

WAR ZONE GPS JAMMING SEES MORE SHIPS "SHOW UP" AT AIRPORTS

On 5 April, Lloyds List carried an article about the surge in ships hit by signal interference in eastern Mediterranean Sea over past few days, while problem is also worsening in the Black Sea.

<https://www.lloydslist.com/LL1148748/War-zone-GPS-jamming-sees-more-ships-show-up-at-airports>

EUROPEAN DATA PROTECTION BOARD (EDPB) THIRD COORDINATED ENFORCEMENT FRAMEWORK WILL FOCUS ON DATA SUBJECT'S ACCESS RIGHTS

On 5 April, McCann Fitzgerald in Ireland reported that this year's action by the EDPB will see 31 participating data protection authorities circulate fact-finding questionnaires to organisations in their territory, with the aim of identifying the need for formal investigations and launching such investigations where appropriate.

<https://www.mccannfitzgerald.com/knowledge/technology-and-innovation/edpb-launches-its-third-coordinated-enforcement-framework>

https://www.edpb.europa.eu/our-work-tools/our-documents/guidelines/guidelines-012022-data-subject-rights-right-access_en

CUBA: US POLICY OVERVIEW

On 4 April, the US Congressional Research Service published this briefing. It says that Congress has played an active role in shaping US policy toward Cuba, including by enacting legislation related to US sanctions and appropriating funding to support access to information and promote democracy and human rights in Cuba.

<https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/IF/IF10045>

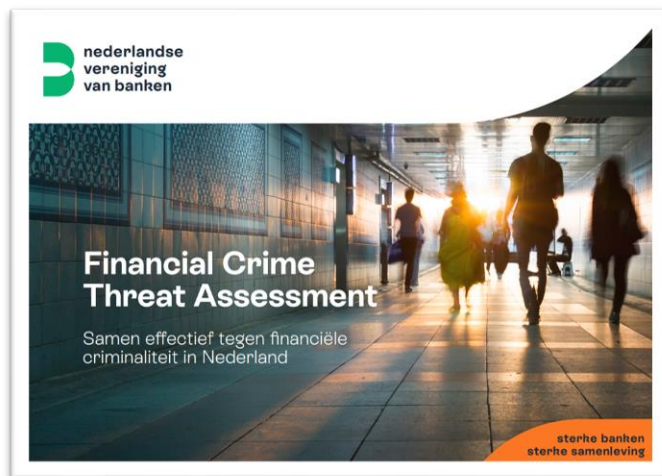
THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE AND THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT: A PRIMER

On 4 April, the US Congressional Research Service published this briefing which describes the 2 courts and the US relationship with the ICJ and the ICC over the course of each court's existence.

<https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/R/R48004>

DUTCH BANKING FINANCIAL CRIME THREAT ASSESSMENT

On 2 April, NVB (the Dutch Banking Association) published this assessment which contains the methodology, an overview of the Dutch financial crime landscape, a compiled list of financial crime threats in The Netherlands, the Financial Crime Threat Assessment of The Netherlands 2023-24 and appendices.



<https://www.nvb.nl/nieuws/meer-focus-in-aanpak-witwassen/>

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A (VERY) MODEST CONTRIBUTION FOR MY TIME AND COSTS, YOU
CAN "BUY ME A COFFEE"**

CONTRIBUTIONS START FROM JUST \$3 AT

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