

20 April 2024

US IMPOSES SANCTIONS ON CHINESE AND BELARUSIAN COMPANIES FOR PROLIFERATION OF MISSILE-APPLICABLE ITEMS TO PAKISTAN

On 20 April, News X and others reported that the US has implemented sanctions on 3 Chinese companies and 1 from Belarus for secretly providing missile-applicable items to support Pakistan's ballistic missile programs, including its long-range missile projects.

<https://www.newsx.com/world/us-imposes-sanctions-on-chinese-and-belarusian-companies-for-proliferation-of-missile-applicable-items-to-pakistan/>

<https://www.msn.com/en-in/news/world/us-imposes-sanctions-on-3-china-firms-for-supplying-components-to-pakistan-for-ballistic-missile-project/ar-AA1nl1M3>

PUBLIC PORTION OF "PANAMA PAPERS" TRIAL CONCLUDES SOONER THAN ANTICIPATED

Devdiscourse reported on 20 April that the trial of associates accused of helping hide wealth for the world's rich ended quickly in Panama City, with a judge now taking 2 weeks to consider the case.

<https://www.devdiscourse.com/article/entertainment/2902428-public-portion-of-panama-papers-trial-concludes-sooner-than-anticipated>

UK: MPs LAUNCH MANIFESTO FOR COMBATING ECONOMIC CRIME

On 18 April, the Chartered Institute of Taxation reported that parliamentarians have launched a paper urging the Government to go 'further and faster' in its efforts to tackle economic crime, including legislating to require tax advisers and accountants to be members of a professional body.

<https://www.tax.org.uk/mps-manifesto-for-combating-economic-crime-2024>

BOUTIQUE HOTEL AND LONDON PROPERTIES SEIZED BY NCA IN MAJOR MONEY LAUNDERING OPERATION

On 11 April, Yahoo News reported that the NCA has seized millions of pounds worth of assets from a British woman, following an 8-year investigation into her husband. Investigators examining her husband's affairs said they discovered an international money laundering network in which hundreds of millions of pounds were moved through accounts in the UK, Hong Kong, Russia and Switzerland.

<https://au.news.yahoo.com/boutique-hotel-london-properties-seized-184847956.html>

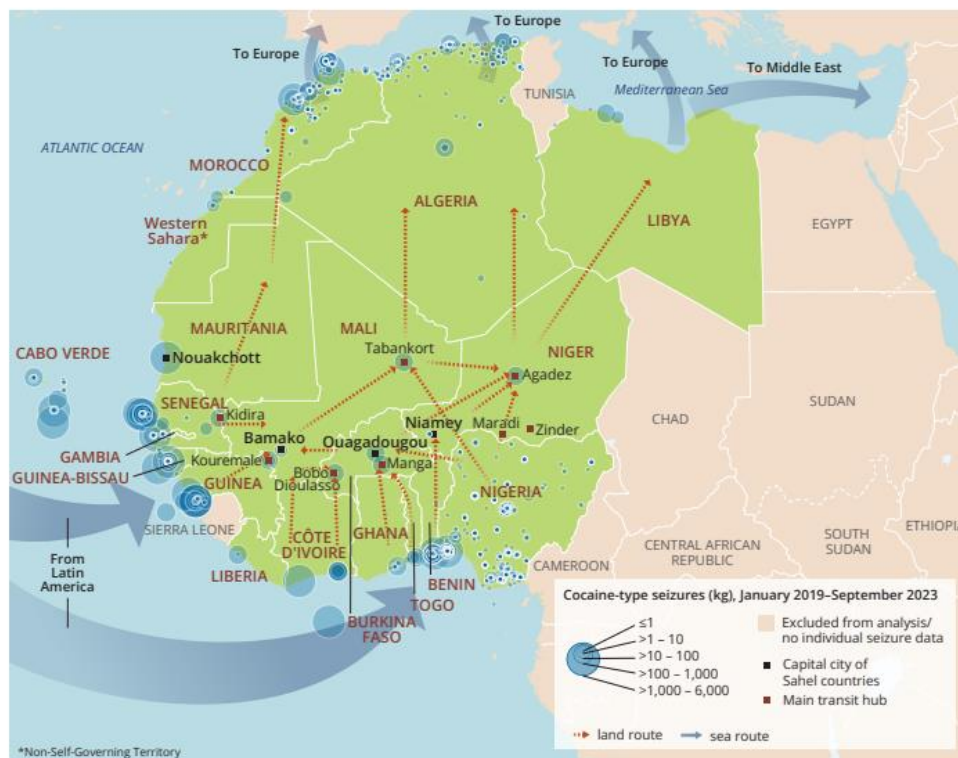
DRUG TRAFFICKING UNDERMINING STABILITY AND DEVELOPMENT IN SAHEL REGION

On 19 April, UNODC reported that a new report says that drug trafficking in the Sahel region – Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, and the Niger – continues to hinder security, economic development and the rule of law while jeopardizing public health, according to a new report from the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). Cannabis resin remains the internationally trafficked drug most commonly seized in the Sahel countries, followed by cocaine and pharmaceutical opioids.



https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/tocta_sahel/TOCTA_Sahel_drugs.pdf

MAP 1. Main cocaine trafficking routes to and from the Sahel countries and territories with individual cocaine seizures in West and Central Africa, January 2019–September 2023



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Final boundary between the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined. Sources: UNODC Drugs Monitoring Platform; annual report questionnaire; and interviews with law enforcement officials.

CHILE ARRESTS DOZENS IN CRACKDOWN ON TRANSNATIONAL GANG 'LOS TRINITARIOS'

On 11 April, OCCRP reported that Chile's Investigative Police raided more than 120 homes and deployed more than 1,000 agents to dismantle a transnational criminal gang operating in the country. The transnational criminal group consisted mainly of Dominicans who trafficked drugs and weapons and used black magic to deal with their enemies.

<https://www.occrp.org/en/daily/18645-chile-arrests-dozens-in-crackdown-on-transnational-gang-los-trinitarios>

CANADA'S GOLD HEIST: INSIDE ONE OF THE BIGGEST THEFTS IN THE ANNALS OF CRIME

On 20 April, CNN published an article about the largest gold heist in Canadian history which was carried out with remarkable ease: a fraudulent shipping document for a load of farm-raised Scottish salmon was used to brazenly snatch \$14.5 million in gold bars and nearly \$2 million in bank notes in April 2023. It says that the operation was a sophisticated caper allegedly involving Air Canada insiders. It morphed into an international operation that, in the words of one official, worked a kind of reverse alchemy to turn gold into guns trafficked from the US intended for use by criminals on the streets of Canada.

<https://uk.news.yahoo.com/canada-gold-heist-inside-one-195329014.html>

SINGAPORE: RUSSIAN BOUGHT \$88 MILLION OF GOLD IN CHANGI TO LAUNDER FUNDS FOR INVASION OF UKRAINE

On 21 April, the Straits Times reported that a Russian man bought more than \$65 million worth of gold bullion held in Singapore in a money laundering conspiracy meant to fund the Russian military's invasion of Ukraine. In February, Feliks Medvedev, 42, pleaded guilty in the US to operating an unlicensed money transmitting business and 39 counts of money laundering. 2 other Russians and a business consulting firm in Moscow were alleged to have conspired with Medvedev in the transfer of these funds and laundering of the illegal proceeds.

<https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/russian-bought-88-million-of-gold-in-changi-to-laundry-funds-for-invasion-of-ukraine>

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