

28 April 2024

LUXURY ON DISPLAY: KIM JONG-UN'S MOTORCADE CHALLENGES UN SANCTIONS

On 28 April, The Chosun Daily reported that North Korea's leader Kim Jong-un was seen in a motorcade with high-end luxury vehicles, indicating a disregard for UN sanctions on importing restricted luxury vehicles and potential weapons and related equipment.

<https://www.chosun.com/english/north-korea-en/2024/04/28/LT4O7WF3VBDXDMU7U4W4DYIHU/>

INDIA: FIU NOTIFIES FRESH MONEY LAUNDERING, TERROR FINANCING REPORTING ALERTS FOR CAPITAL MARKETS

On 28 April, the Deccan Herald reported that fresh set of 'alert indicators' have been issued by India's FIU for capital markets, insurance companies, online payment gateway intermediaries and crypto currency service providers for effective checking of suspicious transactions in their channels as part of the AML/CFT regime.

<https://www.deccanherald.com/business/markets/fiu-notifies-fresh-money-laundering-terror-financing-reporting-alerts-for-capital-markets-2998376>

CHINA TO REVISE AML LAW AMID CRACKDOWN ON ILLICIT CAPITAL FLOWS

On 28 April, the Straits Times reported that sweeping revisions to China's law against money laundering are in the works, as the world's second-largest economy steps up efforts to curb illicit capital flows that could threaten not just the security of its financial system, but also its international reputation.

<https://www.straitstimes.com/asia/china-to-revise-anti-money-laundering-law-amid-crackdown-on-illicit-capital-flows>

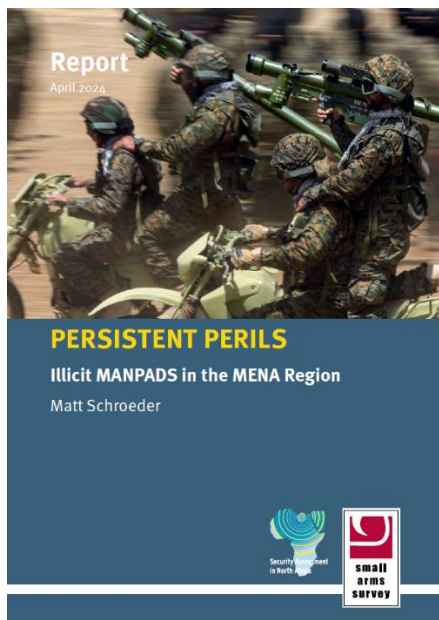
THE 7 DEADLY SINS OF BAD OPEN-SOURCE RESEARCH

On 25 April, Bellingcat published an article identifying a few mistakes it has noticed from open-source researchers in recent years. Many examples are relevant to monitoring armed conflict, but could broadly apply to any genre on which open-source research shines — such as natural disasters or organised crime.

<https://www.bellingcat.com/resources/2024/04/25/oshit-seven-deadly-sins-of-bad-open-source-research/>

NEW REPORT ON PROLIFERATION OF MANPADS IN MENA REGION

On 27 April, the Small Arms Survey published a new report which provides an analysis of the proliferation of man-portable anti-aircraft devices in the Middle East and North Africa 2015-23.



<https://www.smallarmssurvey.org/highlight/new-sana-report-illicit-proliferation-manpads-mena-region>

2 MORE SHIPS JOIN RUSSIA'S GRAIN-SMUGGLING FLEET

On 23 April, Bellingcat reported that ships involved in the smuggling scheme are violating international maritime guidelines by turning off location trackers in an attempt to hide their whereabouts — an act known as 'going dark'. Bellingcat says that it can now reveal that in recent months, the bulk cargo ships *Zafar* and *Zaid* have also joined the grain-plundering fleet, sailing under the Russian flag.

<https://www.bellingcat.com/news/2024/04/23/from-crimea-to-iran-two-more-ships-join-russias-grain-smuggling-fleet/>

FBI WARNS OF BITCOIN RANSOMWARE LINKED TO \$42 MILLION EXTORTION

On 19 April, BeinCrypto reported that the FBI, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), the Netherlands' National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC-NL), and Europol's European Cybercrime Centre (EC3) have issued a joint warning about Akira ransomware. It says that Akira threat actors have amassed an estimated \$42 million in ransom payments as of 1 January. They have targeted various industries, raising significant concerns for organisations worldwide.

<https://beincrypto.com/akira-bitcoin-ransomware-fbi-warning/>

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