

**16 June 2024**

**SUDAN: PARAMILITARY RSF USED WEAPONS THAT THE UAE APPARENTLY BOUGHT FROM SERBIA AND THE US**

On 15 June, Pass Blue reported allegations that the RSF Sudan used weapons, communications equipment, armoured vehicles and intelligence supplied by the UAE in its fight against the Sudanese Armed Forces. If correct, supplying weapons to the RSF would breach the UN arms embargo on Sudan.

<https://www.passblue.com/2024/06/15/sudan-steps-up-accusations-against-uae-at-the-un>

**ARRESTS SPOOK MYANMAR CONDO BUYERS SHIFTING WEALTH TO THAILAND**

On 11 June, Nikkei Asia reported that Myanmar nationals are among the top buyers of property in Thailand, but this trend could change following recent arrests by Myanmar authorities of 6 people for dealing in real estate in Thailand and opening bank accounts abroad without the central bank's permission. The accused are 3 directors of a real estate firm selling high-end condominiums and 3 clients.

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Spotlight/Myanmar-Crisis/Arrests-spook-Myanmar-condo-buyers-shifting-wealth-to-Thailand>

**HMRC HAS FINED NO "ENABLERS" OF OFFSHORE TAX EVASION IN 5 YEARS**

On 16 June, the Bureau of Investigative Journalists reported that the UK tax authority has not fined a single "enabler" of offshore tax evasion or non-compliance in 5 years despite landmark powers introduced in 2017. Experts say it shows HMRC's enforcement is failing to target the architects of offshore schemes while it aggressively pursues the clients, some of whom say they are the victims of schemes sold to them as lawful.

<https://www.thebureauinvestigates.com/stories/2024-06-16/hmrc-fines-zero-enablers-of-offshore-tax-evasion-in-five-years/>

**ILLEGAL CHINESE FISHING OFF EAST AFRICA HURTS LOCAL COMMUNITIES**

On 15 June, RFA reported on a report from the UK-based Environmental Justice Foundation which says that long-distance fishing operations are linked to rights abuses, cruelty to wildlife and unsustainable practices. The report says that the multibillion dollar global fishing industry backed by the Chinese government is driving a surge in Chinese vessels engaged in illegal activities and exploiting fishing grounds off East Africa, spoiling them for local people.

<https://www.rfa.org/english/news/china/africa-fishing-06152024192845.html>

Chinese And Vietnamese Transport Groups Unite In Fighting Cross-Border Wildlife Trafficking

On 4 June, Traffic reported that major logistics groups from 2 of the largest exporting countries, the China Express Association (CEA) and the Viet Nam Automobile Transportation Association (VATA), came together to pave the way for greater industry collaboration, especially to work together to curb cross-border illegal wildlife trade. An MoU between the 2 organisations will deepen cooperation across various areas including combating the illegal transport of wildlife and wildlife products while promoting sustainable practices in the express delivery and auto transport sectors between the 2 countries.

<https://www.traffic.org/news/chinese-and-vietnamese-transport-groups-unite-in-fighting-cross-border-wildlife-trafficking/>

## Gold Supply Chain: Uncovering the ML/FT Red Flags

1

### Red Flags associated with Gold Mining Companies

- Presence of mining title but no proof of corresponding royalty payment
- Non-compliance with local environmental requirements
- Receiving fund transfers from a jurisdiction other than the export destination
- Small mining entity having bank A/c in tax haven country



2

### Red Flags associated with Shipping

- Gold shipment routed through jurisdictions with new refineries, which are apparently costly or serve no business rationale
- Forged or manipulated shipping documents



3

### Red Flags associated with Gold Trading Companies

- Substantial transfers through an intermediary to bank accounts in the source country
- Receiving substantial funds for non-trade operations from overseas
- Huge volume exports to unregulated markets
- Export volume doesn't match the company's size or profile as per govt. records



4

### Red Flags associated with Transactions and Activities

- Pawn shops with unjustifiable income
- New gold-buying companies with swift wealth accumulation
- Frequent transfer to companies already subject to investigation or charged for tax crime
- Shell companies with inadequate organizational structures or economic activities
- Refineries and gold trading companies sanctioned by gold exchanges



5

### Red Flags associated with Geography

- Major gold transactions in non-mining areas
- Substantial transactions by gold traders at border region, contrary to the local history related to gold production or trading
- Bullion traders in intermediary countries offer services limited to certification of purity and origin of gold



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<https://amluae.com/portfolio/gold-supply-chain-uncovering-the-ml-ft-red-flags/>

### **ZIMBABWE'S CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE ORGANISATION (CIO) AND ITS SECRET BUSINESS EMPIRE**

The Sentry has issued an Alert saying that it has seen publicly available information which suggests that the CIO controls Terrestrial Holdings, a business conglomerate of companies involved in hemp, solar energy, coal mining, tourism, and golf. While the bulk of the CIO's funds come from the official budget, the agency — which has a dedicated investment branch — has been known to engage in private business ventures as a source of off-budget financing.

<https://thesentry.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/ZIM-CIO-June2024-TheSentry.pdf>

### **FROM FARM TO SHIP TO FORK: THE ROLE OF MARITIME INSURANCE IN FACILITATING GLOBAL FOOD TRADE**

On 10 June, an article from CSIS says that more than 80% of global trade in staple crops and oilseeds relies on a handful of maritime trade routes that, when disrupted, create a chokehold on food supplies. Disparate threats to key shipping routes are affecting the flow of food globally, raising concerns over food price increases in vulnerable regions. The maritime insurance industry provides hull and cargo insurance to protect traders' vessels and producers' goods, respectively. The high-risk environment produced by ongoing security challenges in the Black and Red Seas has complicated the rates and issuance of war risk insurance to the detriment of global food security and agricultural producers. Examining how maritime insurers and affected governments have adapted — or failed to adapt — to these conflicts' disruptions to trade can inform public and private sector approaches to maritime insurance, vital to ensuring access to the basic building blocks of human health and economic development.

<https://www.csis.org/analysis/farm-ship-fork-role-maritime-insurance-facilitating-global-food-trade>

### **MEXICAN CARTELS HAVE STOLEN OVER \$300 MILLION FROM AMERICAN SENIORS IN ELABORATE TIMESHARE PROPERTY SCAMS**

On 16 June, Yahoo News reported that the FBI says the Jalisco New Generation Cartel is the primary group engaging in timeshare fraud, but others are likely using independent call centres to carry out the fraud too.

<https://uk.news.yahoo.com/mexican-cartels-stolen-over-300-173759927.html>

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