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Russia Saw a 40 Percent Surge in Terror Cases in 2024

Russia's Investigative Committee on 17 February [stated](#) that Russian courts handled 429 terrorism-related criminal cases in 2024, a 40% increase from the previous year. It stressed, "The organisers of these crimes are usually located abroad, while young people, pensioners and others fall under their influence." It added that perpetrators are often persuaded online under false pretexts to commit arson attacks on transportation infrastructure, government buildings or vehicles.

Russia- United States Officials Met in Riyadh

Senior officials of Russia and the United States of America [met](#) in Riyadh for direct bilateral talks, the first since the Russia-Ukraine war on 18 February. Representing Moscow were Presidential Aide for Foreign Policy Yury Ushakov, Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, and Director of the Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF) Kirill Dmitriev. Their US counterparts included Secretary of State Marco Rubio, National Security Advisor Mike Waltz, and Special Envoy for Middle East Peace Steven Witkoff. The primary purpose of the talk was to restore the full scope of relations between the two nations.

Russia's Top Security Official Visited Indonesia

Russia's top security official, Sergei Shoigu, [visited](#) Indonesia on 25 February for talks with President Prabowo Subianto and his defense minister. Moscow and Jakarta seek to strengthen defense cooperation, the latest addition to the growing cooperation between the two nations. In November 2024,

Indonesia and Russia conducted their first joint naval drills, and before that, the President of Indonesia also visited Moscow.

Russia's Foreign Minister Visited Iran

Russia's Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov [visited](#) Iran on 25 February to meet with senior officials, including his Iranian counterpart Abbas Araghchi. The ministry said the talks would cover "Russian-Iranian relations " and "a number of current international issues," including developments in Syria and Yemen and the 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and major powers.

Armenia-France Signed AI Agreement

On 10 February, the Armenian Ministry of High-Tech Industry [signed](#) an agreement with Mistral AI, a French artificial intelligence company, to promote joint initiatives in AI. First Deputy Minister of High-Tech Industry Gevorg Mantashyan and Mistral AI CEO Arthur Mensch signed the agreement in Paris. The agreement envisages improving Armenian AI infrastructures, supporting AI-based business solutions, and improving public administration through the AI-based GovTech program, utilising the French company's experience.

India's Defence Minister Met With Armenia's Defence Minister

India's Defence Minister Rajnath Singh [met](#) with Armenia's Defence Minister Suren Papikian on the sidelines of the AERO-India 2025 arms exhibition in Bengaluru on 13 February. On 12 February, one of Papikian's deputies, Karen Brutian, held separate meetings there with India's State Minister of Defense Sanjay Seth. The Armenian Defense Ministry discussed "opportunities for expanding Armenia-India cooperation in the defense sector."

Azerbaijan Foreign Minister Met With Ukrainian Deputy Foreign Minister

On February 20, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan Jeyhun Bayramov [received](#) Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine Oleksandr Mishchenko. During the meeting, topical issues on the current cooperation agenda between the two countries and the situation in the region were discussed. The parties stressed the importance of the position constantly demonstrated by the two countries on the sovereignty, territorial integrity, and inviolability of state borders.

Turkmenistan to Supply Gas to Turkey Through Swap Deal

Turkmenistan will [begin](#) supplying Turkey with 1.3 billion cubic meters of natural gas on March 1 through a swap agreement. Under the agreement, Turkmenistan will send gas to Iran, transferring an equivalent amount to Turkey. Iran will consume Turkmen gas in its northeastern regions, freeing its supply for Turkey. These developments could boost Turkey's annual gas trade capacity to 300 billion cubic meters, further solidifying its role in global energy markets.

NATO Secretary General Visited Slovakia

NATO Secretary General, Mark Rutte, on 20 February [visited](#) Slovakia for meetings with President Peter Pellegrini, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence, Mr Robert Kaliňák, Minister of Foreign and European Affairs Mr Juraj Blanár and Minister of Finance Mr Ladislav Kamenický. While in Slovakia, He welcomed Slovakia's spending 2% of its GDP on defence and emphasised the importance of further increasing defence spending to maintain NATO's ability to deter and defend in the future.

Christian Democratic Union Wins German Elections

Federal Elections [were](#) held in Germany on 23 February to elect the 630 members of the Bundestag. According to the Federal Election Commission, the voter turnout was record-breaking at 82.5%, a significant increase from 76.6% in 2021 and the highest voter participation since unification in 1990. With vote counting finished, preliminary results show the conservative Christian Democratic Union (CDU), led by chancellor candidate Friedrich Merz and its sister, the Christian Social Union (CSU), won the election with 28.6% of the vote. The far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD), which has been designated in parts as extremist, came in second with 20.8%.

French President Visited the United States of America

President Emmanuel Macron [travelled](#) to Washington on 24 February at the invitation of United States President Donald Trump. In the morning, the two heads of state participated in a video conference with the other G7 members, followed by bilateral discussions. The two leaders discussed the war in Ukraine, the strategic cooperation between our two countries, and the international crises in which we must act for peace.

Italy Signed \$40 Billion Investment Deal with UAE

Italy and the United Arab Emirates [finalised](#) a \$40 billion deal on 25 February that strengthens their strategic relationship and Italy's role as the UAE's top non-oil trading partner in Europe. UAE President Mohamed bin Zayed travelled to Italy to finalise a deal with Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni. The multi-sector investment plan aims to boost Italy's economic landscape and strengthen its position as a key player in energy, artificial intelligence, telecommunications and defence sectors.