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COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

A coup against corruption in Romania
Christian Science Monitor: 29 May 2019

Romania has been an anti-corruption battleground for some time, and things just got more heated. The country imprisoned its most powerful politician, voted in favor of a referendum reversing the recent weakening of the justice system against graft and cut the size of the Social Democratic party in half.


New organisation created to take-up pan-African fight against corruption
Zeenat Hansrod – RFI: 30 May 2019

A new think tank was established to fight corruption across Africa. UNIS was founded by Congolese activists and partners with various organizations in African countries to set up nation-specific programs to fight graft.


For more on this theme:

More than half of Nigeria’s education budget lost to corruption — Transparency International


US: New group aims to ‘shine light’ on corruption in Middle East business world


Mexico sells off cars from corrupt rich to give to the poor

https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/may/24/mexico-sells-off-cars-from-corrupt-rich-to-give-to-the-poor

Portugal: The way ahead for anti-corruption

https://voices.transparency.org/portugal-the-way-ahead-for-anti-corruption-8eb3e2a3b796

Corruption and Collusion Can’t Stop Austria’s Far-Right


Qatari Executive Is Charged With Corruption in I.A.A.F. Scandal


Cleaning up corruption in Malaysia goes beyond Najib


Ex-Governor Bribed by Jalisco Cartel Tests Mexico’s Anti-Corruption Resolve


Kosovo’s Anti-Corruption Efforts Inadequate, BIRN Report Says

DRUG TRAFFICKING

Drug market in ‘disarray’ as Silk Road proteges pulled from dark web

According to one expert, illegal drug sales in online markets have suffered a significant blow since three of the largest darknet marketplaces were shut down. “Right now [online drug markets] are in disarray,” said Eileen Ormsby, author of two books about the darknet. “Everybody is running around and not really sure what’s going on.”


Your Drug Habit Is Destroying the Planet
Mike Power – VICE: 29 May 2019

We all know what illegal drugs do to your health, but what about the health of the environment?

For more on this theme:

The Tale of a Guatemala Mayor and Half a Ton of Cocaine

There Is a Military Option in Venezuela: Just Not the One You Expected
https://nationalinterest.org/feature/there-military-option-venezuela-just-not-one-you-expected-59057

Mexico to go after all narco judges: official

How to Legalize Every Drug
https://www.vice.com/en_ca/article/7xg45x/how-to-legalize-every-drug

The U.S. Shouldn’t Take China at its Word on Fentanyl
https://inhomelandsecurity.com/the-u-s-shouldnt-take-china-at-its-word-on-fentanyl/

Colombia’s congress preparing bill to legalize marijuana

How Brazil’s institutional crisis shaped a terrible drug policy
https://brazilian.report/power/2019/05/18/brazil-anti-drug-policy/

Honduran president was targeted by U.S. drug trafficking probe: court filing
https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-honduras-drugs/honduran-president-was-targeted-by-u-s-drug-trafficking-probe-court-filing-idUSKCN1T02LZ

North Korean Authorities Intensify Drug Checks on Domestic Travelers

EU Strengthens Bolivia’s Struggle against Drug Trafficking

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TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

To save the African elephant, focus must turn to poverty and corruption
Colin Beale and Severin Hauenstein – The Conversation: 28 May 2019

The authors expected to find a correlation between the presence of law enforcement and the killing of elephants. Instead, they found two variables that influence local poaching rates more than expected – poverty and corruption.


How Vietnam Plans to Prevent Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing
Sampa Kundu – The Diplomat: 24 May 2019

Illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing is a huge problem in Southeast Asia. Illegal capture is valued at between $10 billion and $23 billion annually. Vietnam is no exception to this pervasive problem, but now it has some new solutions.


For more on this theme:

New report examines drivers of rising Amazon deforestation on country-by-country basis

A new election brings little hope for Solomon Islands’ vanishing forests
https://news.mongabay.com/2019/05/a-new-election-brings-little-hope-for-solomon-islands-vanishing-forests/

‘We lack assets to combat illegal fishing’

Venezuelan NGO says illegal mining runs rampant in protected, Indigenous land

Ghana: Govt Provides Alternative Livelihood for Illegal Miners
https://allafrica.com/stories/201905220351.html

Taliban Ramp Up Mining In Southern Afghan Region

Peru's military tries to curb illegal gold mining in Amazon
https://www.apnews.com/95cd2f96e5a6490a837ebcee186b82db

Spotlight on India’s soaring wildlife crime

Tiger, pangolin, star tortoise, tokay gecko — the species India must save from smugglers. Now
HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND IRREGULAR MIGRATION

**Modern-Day Slavery: The Public Markets Selling Young Girls for $14**

Godfrey Olukya – OZY: 30 May 2019

Eastern Uganda is home to poverty and recent droughts, creating an atmosphere in which young women are easily lured into human trafficking. The practice has become so widespread that weekly slave markets are popping up to buy and sell young girls who were promised paid jobs.

https://www.ozy.com/fast-forward/modern-day-slavery-the-public-markets-selling-young-girls-for-14/94386

**New hotline to help human trafficking victims launches across Canada**

The Canadian Press – CBC: 29 May 2019

A Canadian hotline to help victims and survivors of human trafficking is now taking calls. The Canadian Centre to End Human Trafficking launched the 24-hour, toll-free service to include 200 languages and be accessible to the deaf, hard-of-hearing and nonverbal.


For more on this theme:

- **Zero tolerance policy against illegal migration: Minister**
  https://www.thedailystar.net/country/bangladesh-government-taken-zero-tolerance-policy-against-illegal-migration-1746775

- **As migrant numbers swell on the US-Mexico border, so do unmet needs**

- **Trying to soften the landing for returning migrants**

- **Operation Identification Helps Repatriate Remains Of Migrants Who Don’t Make It**

- **Sex trafficking’s tragic paradox: when victims become perpetrators**

- **Mexico Rejects Family Separations Amid Child Migrant Crisis**

- **She Thought She’d Married a Rich Chinese Farmer. She Hadn’t.**

- **Human trafficking: Experts underline the need to help victims**

- **Human Trafficking Across Myanmar-China Border Increases in 2019**
PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

INTERNET GOVERNANCE

**The World Says It Needs Global Internet Standards**  
*Sintia Radu – U.S. News & World Report: 23 May 2019*

U.S. News & World Report’s annual “Best Countries” list for 2019 reveals that more than 80 percent of the people surveyed across Africa, Europe and the Americas support creating and enforcing global internet standards.


*For more on this theme:*

*(Global) It’s Time for Government to Regulate the Internet*
https://ssir.org/articles/entry/its_time_for_government_to_regulate_the_internet

*(Global) It’s OK That Amazon Will (Likely) Get the .amazon Domain*
https://www.wired.com/story/its-ok-that-amazon-will-likely-get-amazon-domain/

*(Global) Public Attribution of Cyber Incidents*
http://www.css.ethz.ch/content/dam/ethz/special-interest/gess/cis/center-for-securities-studies/pdfs/CS-SAnalyse244-EN.pdf

INTERNET FREEDOM

**There’s Too Little Outcry When a Government Blocks the Internet**  
*Samuel Woodhams – Defense One: 30 May 2019*

When other countries cut off the internet to their citizens, they seek to prevent disinformation, maintain public safety, and preserve law and order. It’s unfortunate for them that shutting down the internet usually has the opposite effect.


*For more on this theme:*

*(U.S., Iran) US ‘Concerned’ Iran’s Intranet Project Will Repress Internet Freedom*

*(Global) Blockchain Technology Could Prevent Internet Censorship*
https://beincrypto.com/blockchain-technology-internet-censorship/

*(Cuba) How Mobile Internet Has Given New Platforms To Cubans Critical Of Their Government*
PRIVACY AND SECURITY

Digital privacy: How Apple aims to stop web ads from tracking you all across the internet
Liam Tung – ZDNet: 23 May 2019

Apple added a new anti-tracking feature to its Safari internet browser that prevents one-to-one tracking of users who click on an ad on one site and make a purchase on another, unrelated site. Instead, the connection will be blurred so that an advertiser can only track the total impact of a small number of different ads over short periods of time. The new feature is called Privacy Preserving Ad Click Attribution.


For more on this theme:
- (Global) The Importance Of A Data Governance Framework
- (Global) Dark data raises challenges, opportunities for cybersecurity
- (Europe, Global) GDPR Anniversary: Where are We on Privacy a Year Later?
  https://martechseries.com/mts-insights/guest-authors/gdpr-anniversary-privacy-year-later/

CYBER STATECRAFT DEVELOPMENT

The shift in America's 'Active defense' to the 'Defending forward' strategy in the cyberspace
Shreyas Tanna - IT Technology News: 24 May 2019

U.S. Cyber Command’s vision of “persistent engagement” and the U.S. Department of Defense’s new strategy of “defend forward” have led to numerous critical remarks about the risks of escalation between the U.S. and its main adversaries in cyberspace.


For more on this theme:
- (Global) A Trustworthy Digital Foundation Is Essential to Digital Government
- (China, India) Digital inequality in China: Lessons for digital India
- (Azerbaijan) Azerbaijan forms national cyber security strategy
PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

New Federal Public-Private Cyber Task Force Hopes White House Will Be ‘Engaged’
Pam Baker – Channel Futures: 29 May 2019

The U.S. has launched a new task force, the Cyberspace Solarium Commission, to defend against cyber threats from foreign adversaries.

For more on this theme:
(U.S.) Defending forward: Preemption in the Internet of Things

(U.S.) NSA’s David Hogue to Keynote Cyber: Secured Forum

(U.S., Global) The revolution is here: How mid-sized cities can move and grow the fastest

PROTECTION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Alibaba to integrate blockchain with its intellectual property system
Dennis Wafu – CoinGeek: 27 May 2019

Chinese internet company Alibaba announced that it would revise the security of its intellectual property protection system for global enterprises and brands. The revision includes the integration of blockchain technology.

For more on this theme:
(France) One in Four French Internet Users Indulge in Pirate IPTV

(Global) Copyleft: A Step after Copyright!
https://www.ipandlegalfilings.com/Blog/187/Copyleft-A-Step-after-Copyright-

(U.S.) What’s the Point of Charging Foreign State-Linked Hackers?
https://www.lawfareblog.com/whats-point-charging-foreign-state-linked-hackers
CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING

SpaceX successfully launches first 60 satellites in massive Starlink internet constellation
Loren Grush – The Verge: 23 May 2019

Elon Musk’s private space firm, SpaceX, is one step closer to its goal of providing global internet coverage from the cosmos after successfully launching 60 satellites — the first of nearly 12,000 already approved. The 500-pound probes are the first of SpaceX’s ambitious low-orbiting Starlink network.

For more on this theme:
(U.S., Global) Digital GAP Act Passes in the House of Representatives

(Global) Internet 4.0: New Era of Internet
https://www.entrepreneur.com/article/334351

(Global) Closing the Global Governance Gap

COMBATING TERRORISM AND CYBER CRIME

Should State-Sponsored Cyber-Attacks Compel a Military Response?
Julio Rivera – Townhall: 28 May 2019

When Israel bombed Hamas’ cyber headquarters in response to a cyber attack, it raised the question for all nations: Is military force a valid response to a cyber attack?
https://townhall.com/columnists/juliorivera/2019/05/28/should-statesponsored-cyberattacks-compel-a-military-response-n2546959

For more on this theme:
(Ghana) Justice system actors receive training on Cybercrime

(India) On new Modi govt’s digital agenda — securing cyber space and a crackdown on cyber crime

(Global) Cybercrime: An Inside View from Ex-Hacker Brett Johnson
https://incyberdefense.com/featured/cybercrime-inside-view-brett-johnson/
INFORMATION SHARING

Cyber threat intelligence: the key to trust and security for the digital finance world
Anthony Perridge – TechRadar: 29 May 2019

As part of their digital transformation, many financial organizations have implemented several security tools.

For more on this theme:
(U.K.) Combating cyber-crime trumps information sharing
https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=fd3f26d-90f4-4528-8360-d3a0aed16258

(Global) Openness, Collaboration & Development: Building a Secure Digital Society

CYBER PROTECTION OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

The Pentagon has its own island off New York where nobody can go that it's using to run war games for a giant cyber attack on power grid
Beatrice Christofaro – Business Insider: 25 May 2019

The U.S. Defense Advanced Projects Agency uses a secluded, Pentagon-owned island off the coast of New York to stage major cyber war games in which the power grid of the island is attacked by hackers.

For more on this theme:
(U.S., Global) To Win The Cyber War, A Great Defense Is The Best Offense

(Global) Oil and gas cyber risk grows as IT-OT air gap closes

(Global) Amid rising cyber threats, industrial firms are deploying security strategy around IIoT: Frost & Sullivan
ISIS

Instructions from headquarters: Islamic State’s new guerrilla manual
Lena Masri and Ali Abdelaty – Reuters: 24 May 2019

ISIS may have lost the territory it once held but the terrorist organization has not given up the fight. The group’s al-Naba online news site is calling on its followers to adopt guerrilla tactics and has published a detailed manual on how to carry out these kinds of attacks.

Where Exactly is the Islamic State in West Africa?
Jacob Zenn – Council on Foreign Relations: 24 May 2019

The Islamic State recently began to attribute attacks in the Sahel to its affiliate in West Africa. What does this mean for the Islamic State in the Greater Sahara?
https://www.cfr.org/blog/where-exactly-islamic-state-west-africa

For more on this theme:
Re-emergence of ISIS: Threat to India
http://www.thenorthlines.com/re-emergence-of-isis-threat-to-india/

Experts Say The Indian Ocean Region Could Be The Next Front For Global Jihad
https://www.npr.org/2019/05/21/725488401/experts-say-the-indian-ocean-region-could-be-the-next-front-for-global-jihad

Sweden proposes international ISIS tribunal
https://www.neweurope.eu/article/sweden-proposes-international-isis-tribunal/

The Risks of Ignoring Former ISIS Women Members
https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/syriasource/the-risks-of-ignoring-former-isis-women-members

Islamic State sneaks into Asia through family terror cells
https://asia.nikkei.com/Spotlight/Asia-Insight/Islamic-State-sneaks-into-Asia-through-family-terror-cells

Taking stock of Islamic State 2.0
https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/taking-stock-of-islamic-state-20/article27179341.ece

Facing the Challenge of the Islamic State in West Africa Province

Islamic State’s ‘Wilayath as Seylani’ is a major threat to Lanka
https://menafn.com/1098554457/Islamic-States-Wilayath-as-Seylani-is-a-major-threat-to-Lanka

Islamic State, Largely Defeated at Home, Is Rebuilding in Africa
Women and Terrorism: Hidden Threats, Forgotten Partners
Rachel B. Vogelstein and Jamille Bigio – Council on Foreign Relations: 21 May 2019
The role of women in violent extremism cannot be underestimated. Overlooking the ways in which women participate — as perpetrators, mitigators and victims — puts countries at a disadvantage when trying to prevent terrorism.

Attacks on Girls’ Schools on the Rise as Taliban Make Gains
Taliban attacks on schools in Afghanistan have dramatically increased over the past year — especially as the group targets schools for girls.

For more on this theme:
Central Asian Jihadi Groups Join Taliban’s ‘Al-Fath Jihadi Operations’ – Analysis
Gaza’s Islamic Jihad re-emerges, looking to Iran
https://www.asiatimes.com/2019/05/article/gazas-islamic-jihad-re-emerges-looking-to-iran/
Al-Shabaab in Kenya: cross-border attacks and recruitment
How The Gulf’s Appetite For Shisha Is Fueling One Of The Deadliest Terrorist Groups In The World
Zakir Musa and Kashmir: Beyond Al-Qaeda
What doesn’t break Boko Haram in Niger makes it stronger
Pakistan Based Lashkar-e-Taiba Poses a Big Risk To US Forces In Afghanistan – Pentagon Reports
Taliban co-founder emerges as the group’s new public face in Moscow peace talks
Terrorism Trends in Tajikistan
https://www.thecipherbrief.com/column_article/terrorism-trends-in-tajikistan
RADICALIZATION AND MESSAGING

The Many Drivers Enabling Violent Extremism in Northern Mozambique
Gregory Pirio, Robert Pittelli and Yussuf Adam – African Center for Strategic Studies:
20 May 2019
The violent extremist threat in northern Mozambique exploits underlying societal vulnerabilities of inequity, insecure land rights and distrust of authorities.

Center in Northeastern Syria Seeks to Deradicalize IS Teens
Nisan Ahmado – Voice of America: 30 May 2019
In Kurdish-controlled northeastern Syria, a child rehabilitation center houses about 70 children, mostly from Syria, in various stages of deradicalization. Its mission is to reintegrate the children into society.
https://www.voanews.com/a/center-in-northeastern-syria-seeks-to-deradicalize-is-teens/4940036.html

For more on this theme:

Sri Lanka’s Persecuted Muslims Are Turning Radical
https://www.guernicamag.com/2019/05/25/sri-lanka-muslims-turning-radical/

How radical Islam is spreading in Britain?

Centre rallies East Africa against extremists

Young people are key to preventing violent extremism, says new UNDP report

How to counter far-right extremism? Germany shows the way
https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2019/05/germany-far-right-extremism/587570/

Counterterrorism experts on why we must engage with online extremists
https://www.noted.co.nz/currently/social-issues/online-extremism-counterterrorism-experts-on-why-we-must-engage/

‘God, Please Help Her’: Indian Parents Agonize Over Radicalization Of Their Children

Think like Jihadist: Anatomy of Central Asian Salafi groups

Responding to the Rise in Domestic Terrorism: Don't Forget Prevention

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FOREIGN FIGHTERS

Iraq repatriates 188 Turkish children left by ISIS
Loaa Adel – Iraqi News: 29 May 2019

Iraq has handed over 188 Turkish children of suspected Islamic State members to Turkey after Ankara said it would help the children return home, judicial officials announced.


Foreign fighters are dangerous — for the groups they join
Daniel L. Byman – Slate Magazine: 24 May 2019

Foreign fighters are appealing to terrorist organizations, which put a lot effort into recruiting them. But according to terrorism expert Dan Byman, foreign fighters are often more trouble than they’re worth for the groups they join.


For more on this theme:
Jihadists Who Left Spain For Syria As Foreign Terrorist Fighters But Have Returned – Analysis
https://www.eurasiareview.com/21052019-jihadists-who-left-spain-for-syria-as-foreign-terrorist-fighters-but-have-returned-analysis/

Counter-Terrorism: Unacceptable Losses

US reportedly sending ISIS fighters captured in Syria to Iraq

Uzbekistan repatriates 148 women and children linked to ISIS from Syria
https://thedefensepost.com/2019/05/30/uzbekistan-repatriate-isis-women-children-syria/

France Won’t Take ISIS Fighters Back, But Doesn’t Want Them Executed Either
https://www.npr.org/2019/05/27/727358705/france-wont-take-its-isis-fighters-back-but-it-doesnt-want-them-executed-either

John Walker Lindh and the Dilemma of American Terrorists

Germany is failing to prosecute IS foreign fighters, Yazidis accuse
https://www.dw.com/en/germany-is-failing-to-prosecute-is-foreign-fighters-yazidis-accuse/a-48944533

Near 29,000 of children of foreign fighters stranded in Syria

Western nations must take responsibility for their ISIS fighters
https://www.thenational.ae/opinion/editorial western-nations-must-take-responsibility-for-their-isis-fighters-1.866796
CONSEQUENCE MANAGEMENT

DEALING WITH DISASTERS

As rains fall short, Manila trickles into a water crisis
Matt Blomberg – Thompson Reuters Foundation: 17 May 2019
As drought grips the Philippines, Manila is the latest big city struggling to gain access to enough water.
http://news.trust.org/item/20190517094633-94lcc/

EU Commissioner urges prevention to reduce disasters amplified by climate change
New Europe: 29 May 2019
European Commissioner Christos Stylianides argues that it is time for the European Union to take preventive measures to reduce the impact of natural disasters amplified by climate change.

For more on this theme:

Somalia: 2019 Drought Response Plan

Indonesia and UN to work closely on disaster prevention following 2018 disaster death toll
https://www.unisdr.org/archive/65729

Fighting climate change, building resilience

Mozambique cyclones are ‘wake-up call,’ says WMO

Disasters are getting worse and we need a new plan

Online tools can help people in disasters, but do they represent everyone?

Annual disaster-preparedness mission brought Navy to seven nations in three months

Supporting Safer Housing Reconstruction After Disasters: Planning and Implementing Technical Assistance at Scale
https://unhabitat.org/supporting-safer-housing-reconstruction-after-disasters/