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CORRUPTION

**Vietnam court sentences ex-minister to life in MobiFone corruption scandal**
*Reuters: 28 December 2019*

A former Vietnamese government minister and his deputy were sentenced to a life term and 14 years in prison, respectively, in a case of corruption that is said to have cost the state budget almost $3 million.


**Crashing Down: A Decade Of Corruption Cripples FIFA**
*Samindra Kunti – Forbes: 28 December 2019*

Soccer organization FIFA has spent the last decade mired in controversy and corruption. The organization has been exposed for significant ethical violations since awarding the 2018 and 2022 World Cups in December 2010.


*For more on this theme:*

**Bosnia ex-Security Minister Charged with Corruption**

**Police Raid Navalny’s Anti-Corruption HQ In Moscow**

**Corruption whistleblower law enters into force in Ukraine**

**Argentina's new leadership carries old baggage of corruption and conspiracy allegations**

**Brazilian President Signs Anti-Corruption Bill**

**S. Korea's ex-justice chief indicted for corruption**

**Lebanese protesters turn their ire on banks**
https://apnews.com/7fffc38a56c644a5879ff72cd9a11094f

**Big data vs corruption?**

**Tunisian parliament signs anti-corruption strategy charter**
**DRUG TRAFFICKING**

*To battle opioid crisis, some track overdoses in real time*


In New York’s Hudson Valley, information gathered from drug overdose patients is entered into a real-time tracking system that can help thwart future overdoses by alerting authorities to clusters of activity.

https://apnews.com/65eb129f7d65ad537e8579cf0e530263

*Synthetic opioids like fentanyl ravaged the US during the last decade. They may do even more damage to Asia in the next*

*Joshua Berlinger – CNN: 30 December 2019*

Fentanyl is showing up in heroin in Asia. The overdoses should set off alarms that the opioid crisis is coming for Asia and, according to experts, the region isn’t ready.


*For more on this theme:*

**Drug Frontier - How Cocaine Trafficking Is Impacting West Africa**


**Transnational Organized Crime and National Security: Evil Corp, Hezbollah and Chinese Opioid Trafficking**


**Drug trafficking, consumption termed a national security threat**


**Status and money pull youth into drugs trade**


**The True Cause of the Opioid Epidemic**


**How Liverpool’s cocaine trade is fighting off the Albanian mafia**


**How cartels use migrant workers to smuggle drugs**


**Opioid addicts less likely to kick habit if they also take methamphetamine, study finds**

https://www.illicit-trade.com/2020/01/opioid-addicts-less-likely-to-kick-habit-if-they-also-take-methamphetamine-study-finds/

**Could the DEA have stopped the opioid epidemic by cutting off the supply?**

TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

Tigers Extinct in Laos
The snaring crisis in Southeast Asia appears to have claimed the lives of Laos’ last wild tigers.

A Mexican indigenous town's environmental revolt
Jennifer Gonzalez Covarrubias – Phys.org: 21 December 2019
In the indigenous town of Cheran, Mexico, the people decided to take their lives back from the illegal loggers and the drug cartels funding them. Eight years later, they have been largely successful.

For more on this theme:
Border closures in Nigeria’s northeast slash fuel smuggling, country's petrol agency says
tries-petrol-agency-says/

Costa Rican Orchids: A Goldmine for Illegal Smugglers
https://news.co.cr/costa-rican-orchids-a-goldmine-for-illegal-smugglers/80886/

British soldiers in anti-poaching mission to protect endangered black rhinos
black-rhinos-11364420907990

‘More joint ops needed to stop wildlife traffickers’

THE LAST GREEN MILE: Malaysia’s environmental activists and conservationists reflect on the year that was and the way forward
https://www.nst.com.my/lifestyle/sunday-vibes/2019/12/551555/last-green-mile-malaysias-environmen-
tal-activists-and

North Sumatra Police probe illegal logging as possible cause of deadly floods
https://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2020/01/03/north-sumatra-police-probe-illegal-logging-as-possible-
cause-of-deadly-floods.html

China Attempts to Balance Forest Use, Protection In Amended Law
https://news.bloombergenvironment.com/environment-and-energy/china-attempts-to-balance-forest-use-
protection-in-amended-law

Africa to tackle illegal rosewood trade with harmonised policy

IIU Fishing: Panama’s Yellow Card Reinstated
HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND IRREGULAR MIGRATION

Fleeing Home: Refugees and Human Trafficking  
*Alexandra Bro – Council on Foreign Relations: 31 December 2019*

Global refugee flows are at the highest levels in history. Many refugees face human trafficking dangers on the way to and in their host countries — something that has not been adequately addressed.  
https://www.cfr.org/blog/fleeing-home-refugees-and-human-trafficking

What crackdown? Migrant smuggling business adapts, thrives  
*Maria Verza and Christopher Sherman – The Associated Press: 19 December 2019*

The business of smuggling migrants to the U.S. southern border is adapting to a year of changes on both sides of the frontier.  
https://apnews.com/202a751ac3873a802b5da8c04c69f2fd

For more on this theme:

Victim’s suit against hotel chains focuses attention on sex trafficking  

**Human trafficking: Racketeers using new route**  
https://english.khabarhub.com/2019/31/65301/

**The pay’s great: How human trafficking syndicates lure victims**  

How the Aviation Industry is Responding to Sex Trafficking  

United States to aid Mexico in creating two genetic databases to combat crime  

Smugglers Look for New Populations to Bring Across US Border  

Making misery pay: Libya militias take EU funds for migrants  
https://apnews.com/9d9e8d668ae4b73a336a636a86bdf27f

Europe’s decade of migration chaos  
https://www.thenational.ae/world/europe/europe-s-decade-of-migration-chaos-1.957868

Migration to Europe in 2019: Facts and figures  

No end to abuse and exploitation of migrants stranded in Libya  
https://www.arabnews.com/node/1602256/middle-east
PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

INTERNET GOVERNANCE

The dream of a global internet is edging towards destruction

With competing visions for the internet tearing it apart at the seams, the medium as we know it may not last much longer.

https://www.wired.co.uk/article/internet-fragmentation

For more on this theme:

(Global) Why We Need A More Regulated Tech And AI Environment -- And Why That Will Probably Never Happen

(Global) Virtuous circles: Skilling up for an ethical web
https://www.computerweekly.com/feature/Virtuous-circles-skilling-up-for-an-ethical-web

(Russia) Russia Briefly Cuts Internet Access

INTERNET FREEDOM

Critics see Nigeria’s controversial Social Media Bill as attack on internet freedom
Bola Macaulay – Naija247News: 21 December 2019

Critics say that recently proposed legislation in Nigeria would decimate internet freedoms in the country. The government says the bill is for national security and would allow authorities to block access to certain social media to curb the spread of “false statements.”


For more on this theme:

(Iran) Report: Iran cuts mobile internet in some provinces
https://apnews.com/6c236e910ce1c797021a18fd09d7addb

(China) China’s New Internet Censorship Rules Outline Direction For Content

(India) Internet outages play havoc with life in UP
https://www.sundayguardianlive.com/opinion/internet-outages-play-havoc-life
PRIVACY AND SECURITY

It’s 2020 and you have new privacy rights online. But you might have to show ID
Sam Dean – Los Angeles Times: 1 January 2020

The U.S. now has a major data privacy law, but it will only apply to California residents. The California Consumer Protection Act went into effect at the stroke of midnight on January 1 and provides a host of new legal obligations for companies that collect, sell and share consumers’ data, as well as protections for those consumers.


For more on this theme:

(EU) EU Companies and Cybersecurity Threats
https://moderndiplomacy.eu/2020/01/02/eu-companies-and-cybersecurity-threats/

(EU) Continental Drift: Is Digital Sovereignty Splitting Global Data Centers?

(GLOBAL) What to expect in 2020: Cybersecurity edition

(U.S.) Facebook Locks Down Privacy, But Lawmakers Demand the Key

(U.S.) Incoming: What Local Governments Can Learn From Federal Cybersecurity Efforts
https://www.afcea.org/content/incoming-what-local-governments-can-learn-federal-cybersecurity-efforts

CYBER STATECRAFT DEVELOPMENT

Russians are masters of deception when it comes to cyberwars

The United Nations recently adopted Russia’s proposal for a cyber crime resolution. “People should pay attention,” says Chris Painter, who was the Obama administration’s top cyber diplomat. The Russians have been trying for two decades to shape global internet rules that match their interests. But with the cyber crime treaty, “they’ve taken it to the next level.”


For more on this theme:

(Global) Brave New World: The State and Technological Revolution

(Ireland) Ireland publishes new National Cyber Security Strategy
CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING

**Major police stations to get dedicated cyber crime wing**

*The Hindu: 27 December 2019*

To tackle the growing threat of cyber crimes, every police station in Hyderabad, India, will get a crime wing to deal with cyber cases.


*For more on this theme:*

**India** CSCs to offer free Wifi till March 2020

**Bolivia** Martin Murillo Brings Bolivian Villages the Internet

**Rwanda** Rwanda Takes on Smart Phone Access Challenge into Year 2020
https://www.ktpress rw/2019/12/rwanda-takes-on-smart-phone-access-challenge-into-year-2020/

**Pakistan** Digital Pakistan Vision does not take on digital literacy skill set building: Dawn contributor

COMBATING TERRORISM AND CYBER CRIME

**Man Behind Major Hacks in USA is Now an Internet Security Teacher in China**

*WIC News: 26 December 2019*

A Chinese malware broker who spent 18 months in the San Diego federal detention center after being sentenced by the U.S. government for involvement in malicious activity linked to major hacks is now back in China at his old teaching job.


*For more on this theme:*

**India** Cybercrime: Online payment systems to be prime targets in 2020
https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/technology/cybercrime-online-payment-systems-to-be-prime-targets-in-2020/article30430657.ece

**Global** Seven Reasons For Cybercrime’s Meteoric Growth

**Global** How the Ransomware Economy Has Grown
https://securityboulevard.com/2020/01/how-the-ransomware-economy-has-grown/
As cyber risks rise in 2020, as they surely will, don't overlook physical security
Vidya Muthukrishnan – Security Boulevard: 31 December 2019

In the wake of the cyber security mania for critical infrastructure, organizations must be careful not to overlook the importance of physical security as well.


For more on this theme:
(Ireland) Cyber attack on Irish data centres would badly hit economy, report warns

(U.S.) CISA Confronts 2020's Top Critical Infrastructure Threats

(U.S.) Terrorism consortium examines worldwide critical infrastructure attacks

States are on front lines of 2020 election-security efforts
Christina A. Cassidy – The Associated Press: 26 December 2019

Local, state, federal and military officials are working together to ensure the security of elections in 2020.

https://apnews.com/222bd1402c96bc487f5a0a2dc5bf12c

For more on this theme:
(U.S.) Fort Meade: Soldiers team up for cyber training at the 2019 NetWars Services Cup

(U.K.) School pupils learn all things cyber security in county-wide scheme

(U.S.) Responders get hands-on look at latest tech
https://gcn.com/articles/2020/01/02/responders-hands-on-tech.aspx
NOTEWORTHY PODCASTS

Leading by example and positive reinforcement.
*Hacking Humans – The Cyberwire; 2 January 2020*

This episode covers several of the most recent cyber scams. The podcast’s special guest is Dennis Dillman of Barracuda Networks, who shares his thoughts on employee training.


For more on this theme:

(U.S.) Inside Magecart and Genesis.

(Global) Cyber Security Today — Make this New Year Resolution
https://www.itworldcanada.com/article/cyber-security-today-make-this-new-year-resolution/425342

(Global) Avoiding VC pitfalls with Ron Gula and Mike Janke
## PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

### ISIS

**After the caliphate: ISIS at a crossroads**  

ISIS fighters remain and are gathering together, just as sleeper cells are waiting to strike. But the fate of ISIS will likely be decided in the next few months as the world waits to see if the group is ready for a comeback.  
https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2019/world/whats-next-isis/

**ISIS terror risk to rise in south Philippines**  
*Bong S. Sarmiento – Asia Times: 30 December 2019*

Though martial law irritates residents on the Mindanao island of the Philippines, President Rodrigo Duterte’s decision to lift the restrictions in 2020 may not be for the best. Recent attacks indicate that local terror groups are ready to regroup.  

For more on this theme:

- **ISIS Affiliate in Nigeria Releases a Video Showing 11 Executions**  

- **Afghan official: Hundreds of IS members, family detained**  
  https://apnews.com/812e94d1ecac196eca0ab3c06cd44e67

- **ISIS winter offensive illustrates need to confront global threat**  

- **ISIS ‘caliphate’ crumbled in 2019, but terror group remains forceful threat, experts say**  

- **Who Will Lead The ISIS After Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi?**  

- **New Caliph, Same Old Problems**  
  https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/west-africa/2020-01-01/new-caliph-same-old-problems

- **The troubling resurgence of ISIS**  
  https://torontosun.com/opinion/columnists/hassan-the-troubling-resurgence-of-isis

- **When ISIS found home in India**  

- **Women of the Eastern Caliphate Part 1: Hiding in Plain Sight**  
  https://pulitzercenter.org/reporting/women-eastern-caliphate-part-1-hiding-plain-sight
FOREIGN FIGHTERS

A Way to Ensure the Disruption of the Islamic State: Bring ISIS Children Home
Elena Pokalova – The National Interest: 22 December 2019

The children caught in the middle are at the greatest risk in the fight over returning ISIS fighters and/or their families to their home nations. Growing up in the radicalized detention camps sets up the children to become the next generation of ISIS if nothing is done to break the cycle of radicalization.


For more on this theme:

Turkey deports ISIS bride and child back to the Netherlands

Christmas at home in Trinidad for boys held in Isis caliphate

Conditions Deteriorate At Syrian Camp Where ISIS Families Are Held
https://www.npr.org/2019/12/23/790687279/conditions-deteriorate-at-syrian-camp-where-isis-families-are-held

How a German family ended up in Syria’s Islamic State-controlled territory

Thousands of Islamic State fighters captured in Syria face uncertain fate

Castaway from the Islamic State
https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2019/12/23/how-isis-women-their-children-are-being-left-stranded-desert/?arc404=true

TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

How Boko Haram Has Regained the Initiative and What Nigeria Should Do to Stop It
Nathaniel Allen – War on the Rocks: 24 December 2019

Though local and state authorities in Nigeria have won battles against Boko Haram, the group is far from destroyed. Nigeria has to learn to take those small victories and reform to turn them into lasting achievements against the group.

Trends in Terrorism: What's On the Horizon in 2020
Colin P. Clarke – Foreign Policy Research Institute: 2 January 2020

As we usher in a new year, what trends in terrorism are likely to dominate the global security landscape in 2020?

For more on this theme:

Violent Extremism in the Maldives: The Saudi Factor

West Africa: Is France losing ground to militants?

Al Qaeda affiliate Al-Shabaab claims responsibility for Somalia truck bombing that killed 85

https://allafrica.com/stories/201912310478.html

Terror and Violent Extremism: Securing India in the coming decade

Taliban council agrees to temporary cease-fire in Afghanistan

Terrorism poses growing threat in Africa's Sahel, Germany warns

COUNTERTERRORISM STRATEGIES

The Queen’s Speech: Counter-Terrorism – The Implications
Wasiq Wasiq – International Policy Digest: 24 December 2019

The United Kingdom government set out its legislative plan for the year in the Queen’s Speech, and it is no surprise that terrorism is prominently featured among the most pressing matters.

For more on this theme:

UAE hails US counterterrorism efforts

Qatar passes counter-terrorism law
https://news.am/eng/news/552002.html

India-US counter-terrorism relationship has deepened: US official
http://www.navhindtimes.in/india-us-counter-terrorism-relationship-has-deepened-us-official/
RADICALIZATION AND MESSAGING

Critics slam study claiming YouTube’s algorithm doesn’t lead to radicalization
William Feuer – CNBC: 30 December 2019

Researchers have found that YouTube's recommendation algorithm appears to be designed to benefit mainstream media over independent YouTube creators. But experts say that the study—which has not been peer-reviewed—has many major flaws.
https://www.cnbc.com/2019/12/30/critics-slam-youtube-study-showing-no-ties-to-radicalization.html

The World Has a Long Battle Ahead With the Idea of ISIS
Kabir Taneja – The Wire: 22 December 2019

This article is an excerpt from the book, The ISIS Peril: The World’s Most Feared Terror Group and Its Shadow on South Asia. Focused on the defeat of the physical appeal of ISIS, the world needs to pay attention to the fact that the ideology still holds sway for many.
https://thewire.in/security/the-isis-peril-kabir-taneja

For more on this theme:
Former IS Member Combats Online Radicalization in Indonesia
https://www.voanews.com/extremism-watch/former-member-combats-online-radicalization-indonesia

White Extremism Faces a Subversive Foe Online: Google Ads
https://www.nytimes.com/2019/12/30/us/white-supremacy-moonshot-google-ads.html

Finding love and jihad
https://www.rappler.com/newsbreak/in-depth/247410-finding-love-jihad

Belgian authorities worried about online radicalization

To avoid radicalisation, foreign children who lived under IS must be allowed home
https://www.alaraby.co.uk/english/comment/2019/12/30/foreign-children-who-lived-under-IS-must-be-repatriated

Expert warns UK’s counter-radicalisation programme open to manipulation
https://www.thenational.ae/world/europe/expert-warns-uk-s-counter-radicalisation-programme-open-to-manipulation-1.959129