CONTENTS

COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)
Corruption
Drug Trafficking
Trafficking in Scarce or Protected Resources
Human Trafficking and Irregular Migration

PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)
Internet Governance
Internet Freedom
Cybersecurity
Cyber Statecraft
Cyber Capacity Building
Cyberattacks, Threats and Vulnerabilities

PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)
ISIS and Foreign Fighters
Terrorism Around the World
Radicalization
Irregular Warfare: Cyber
Irregular Warfare: Proxy Forces and Private Military Groups
Irregular Warfare: Information Operations and Malign Influence
COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

State capture report chronicles extent of corruption in South Africa. But will action follow?
Richard Calland – The Conversation: 6 January 2022

In light of the apparent weaknesses in South Africa's state capacity and institutions, there is understandable skepticism as to whether the government has the technical capability, let alone the political will, to implement the recommendations emerging from South Africa's State Capture Commission.


Inequality, corruption led to Kazakhstan unrest
Deutsche Welle: 10 January 2022

Protesters in Kazakhstan are hoping for more equality and higher living standards in a country rich in natural resources and business opportunities.


For more on this theme:

Is Cancun Crime Wave Linked To Mayoral Corruption?
https://www.ibtimes.com/cancun-crime-wave-linked-mayoral-corruption-3363643

RCMP eyes corruption cases involving overseas Canadian firms

China probes head of top life insurer in anti-corruption campaign

Anti-corruption alliance targets “uniting force of dictators”

U.S. Strategy on Countering Corruption Reflects Global Enforcement

China’s Xi Jinping to his top leadership: ‘no mercy’ in fight against corruption

Court hands heavier-than-expected graft sentences to former Asabri directors
https://www.thejakartapost.com/indonesia/2022/01/06/court-hands-heavier-than-expected-graft-sentences-to-former-asabri-directors.html
DRUG TRAFFICKING

Taliban Says Afghan Prison Offers Treatment For Drug Users
Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty: 4 January 2022

Dozens of people who allegedly abuse drugs are being held at one of Afghanistan’s biggest prisons together with convicted criminals. Taliban officials claim Kandahar Central Prison serves as an educational and rehab center for those with drug addictions.


Crypto Increasingly Used In Human/Drug Trafficking Says GAO
Ted Knutson – Forbes: 10 January 2022

In a recent report, the United States Government Accountability Office suggested that crypto ATMs were becoming increasingly popular among human and drug traffickers largely because of their unregulated nature and the difficulty of tracing such transactions.


For more on this theme:

Amphetamine Trafficking Hurts Livelihood of Lebanon’s Farmers

 Trafficking Terrorism: How a Street Gang Connected with Libyan Terrorists

Military coup fallout turns Myanmar into world’s largest synthetic drugs hotspot

Nigerien Mayor Caught Smuggling Drugs
https://iafrica.com/nigerien-mayor-caught-smuggling-drugs/

Home Ministry decides to create a mechanism to prevent increasing use of Dark-net and Crypto-currency in Narcotics trade

Institutions in remote Honduras are permeated by organized drug crime

Jordan reports ‘dramatic’ increase in drug smuggling attempts from Syria
https://www.arabnews.com/node/2003206/middle-east

New Cocaine, Marijuana Trafficking Connections Between Colombia, Brazil
TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

Overfishing fuels South China Sea tensions, risks armed conflict, researcher says
Radio Free Asia: 5 January 2022

South China Sea fisheries are estimated to generate $100 billion a year, supporting 3.7 million people. Overfishing could collapse fishery stocks and fuel serious tensions, a new report says.

Big tech, regulators and conservationists must unite to tackle online wildlife trade

Social media platforms have enabled wildlife traders to connect as never before. Some operate legally, within the boundaries of international laws. Others are less scrupulous.

For more on this theme:

Dubai Can’t Shake Off the Stain of Smuggled African Gold

200 river guards to combat illegal mining

Amazon tribe suffers mercury contamination as illegal gold mining spreads

Environmental crimes – A possible thematic sanctions area?

Tarnished Gold: Aircraft, fuel key to illegal Amazon mining

As the price of gold increases, so is illegal gold mining

Female rangers serve as nature protectors on Indonesia’s Mount Leuser

Foreign capital, blamed for depleting Indonesia’s fish stocks, is set to return

Why Big Data is the Future of Sustainable Fishing?
HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND IRREGULAR MIGRATION

Child sex trafficking endures in Bali despite collapse of international tourism
Adi Renaldi and David Pierson – Los Angeles Times: 6 January 2022

For decades, sex trafficking in Bali had been fueled by foreign pedophile rings and lone predators. The loss of visitors from abroad, who helped power a tourism sector responsible for half of Bali’s economy and employing nearly one-third of its workforce, has refocused the industry to rely on domestic tourists and locals.


Lebanese seek escape from economic crisis via perilous sea smuggler trip to Europe
Hashem Osseiran – Agence France-Presse: 11 January 2022

The United Nations refugee agency says at least 1,570 individuals, including 186 Lebanese nationals, embarked on illicit journeys or tried to leave Lebanon in smuggler boats during 2021.


For more on this theme:

A Proclamation on National Human Trafficking Prevention Month, 2022

The High Toll of Human Trafficking

Understanding the Role of Women in Sex Trafficking

‘Container people’ find dream destination and sobering reality in the UK

Social Media Apps Help Scale up Sex Trafficking

Human traffickers use social media to lure job seekers to Cambodia

Portugal lets in Moroccan workers, hopes to stop traffickers
https://apnews.com/article/business-africa-migration-spain-portugal-74ed3e-d860eaa9843b9f4899feb5b074

Migrants meet smugglers in Serbia: Is the Balkan route really closed?

Smugglers Profit from Both Migrants and Fugitives
https://www.hstoday.us/subject-matter-areas/border-security/smugglers-profit-from-both-migrants-and-fugitives/
PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

INTERNET GOVERNANCE

So much for a ‘world without borders’? Countries are marking their territory in cyberspace.
Alix Desforges and Aude Géry – Atlantic Council: 4 January 2022

Since the advent of the internet, politicians from all ideological and national backgrounds have raised the question of a cyberspace “without borders.” Their perception of such a digital world exposes the challenges governments face when exercising their sovereignty in it — or even the impossibility of doing so.


For more on this theme:

(Global) Lessons learned from 1990s internet commerce regulation: First, do no harm

(Singapore, Global) The One-Stop Guide To The Top AI Governance Guidelines & Researches

(Global) Internet Governance Outlook 2022: A Global Digital Compact or a Bifurcated Cyberspace?

INTERNET FREEDOM

Information Chaos in Kazakhstan
Katrina Keegan – The Diplomat: 10 January 2022

Seeking control, the Kazakh government shut down the internet. But the long-term effects may only necessitate continued crackdowns.

https://thediplomat.com/2022/01/information-chaos-in-kazakhstan/

For more on this theme:

(Africa) Dictators in Africa using social media to cling to power

(Global) Internet censorship cost the global economy $5.5 billion in 2021, report says

(China) China makes a show of opening up the internet for the Olympics
https://www.axios.com/beijing-china-olympics-internet-censorship-35e1cd8e-0af4-4175-825b-19ee68f-d8e34.html
CYBERSECURITY

How to make organizations cyber resilient in the digital frontier
Christopher Hetner and John Frazzini – World Economic Forum: 5 January 2022

Cybercrimes are set to cost governments and organizations $10 trillion by 2025. As new cyber-threats emerge, boards of directors must develop plans to ensure their organizations have greater cyber resilience.

https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2022/01/achieving-cyber-resiliency-in-today-s-digital-frontier/

For more on this theme:
(Global) UN says measures to improve cyberspace safety needed now
https://www.openaccessgovernment.org/internet-governance/127201/

(Global) Why Holistic Ecosystems Will Be Central to Future Cybersecurity
https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/opinions/holistic-ecosystems-future/

(Global) Cybersecurity: What To Watch In 2022

CYBER STATECRAFT

Africa must get up to speed on cyber diplomacy
Karen Allen – Institute for Security Studies: 3 January 2022

The continent cannot afford to take a back seat in upcoming global decisions on digital security and future tech.

https://issafrica.org/iss-today/africa-must-get-up-to-speed-on-cyber-diplomacy

For more on this theme:
(Canada) Key Considerations for Canada’s Forthcoming National Cyber Security Strategy

(Latvia) Latvia has plans to put together a National Cyber Security Centre
CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING

Economies lose $1tr to persistent digital gender gap
Adeyemi Adepetun – The Guardian: 12 January 2022

Some countries have lost money because of an inability to bridge a digital gender gap, the Alliance for Affordable Internet said in a recent report. “Affordability Report 2021: A New Strategy for Universal Access” noted that digital exclusion is no longer just about being beyond the reach of the infrastructure that makes internet access possible.


For more on this theme:
(Philippines) High-Speed Internet for Public Schools in the Philippines

(Global) Cybersecurity training isn't working. And hacking attacks are only getting worse
https://www.zdnet.com/article/your-cybersecurity-training-needs-improvement-because-hacking-attacks-are-only-getting-worse/

(U.S.) DOD Launches New University Consortium for Cybersecurity
https://www.defense.gov/News/News-Stories/Article/Article/2894347/dod-launches-new-university-consortium-for-cybersecurity/

CYBERATTACKS, THREATS AND VULNERABILITIES

Cybersecurity: Last year was a record year for attacks, and Log4j made it worse
Jonathan Greig – ZDNet: 11 January 2022

Check Point Research said its customers reported a 50% increase in overall attacks per week on corporate networks compared with 2020.


For more on this theme:
(Brazil) Health Ministry of Brazil Hit by Two Ransomware Attacks in One Week; Vaccination Data Stolen & Taken Offline

(U.S.) Thousands of School Websites Went Down in a Cyberattack. It'll Happen Again, Experts Say

(Norway) Norwegian Media Company Amedia Suffered a Serious Cyber Attack That Left Newspapers Unprinted
PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

ISIS AND FOREIGN FIGHTERS

**Sweden and France launch joint task force to prosecute ISIS fighters over Yazidi genocide**

*Nicky Harley – The National: 7 January 2022*

Authorities in Sweden and France have launched a joint team to investigate atrocities committed by ISIS against Yazidis. More than 10,000 Yazidis were killed when ISIS swept through northern Iraq in 2014, and about 7,000 women and girls were enslaved, many of whom are still missing.


**Malaysian ISIS fighters in Syrian camps may slip into country, pose danger: Report**

*The Star/Asia News Network: 10 January 2022*

At the height of ISIS’ stranglehold in Iraq and Syria, more than 100 Malaysian fighters joined the so-called holy war, some even with family in tow. But seven years later, following the defeat of the terror group, over 50 fighters and their families remain in refugee camps or have disappeared.


*For more on this theme:*

**Iraq takes back 111 ISIS-linked families from Syria**


**Supreme Court denies appeal of regretful Islamic State bride**


**Islamic State ramps up activities in eastern Syria**

https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2022/01/islamic-state-ramps-activities-eastern-syria

**UAE pushes for ‘redoubled’ Sahel anti-terror effort**

https://www.thenationalnews.com/world/2022/01/10/uae-pushes-for-redoubled-sahel-anti-terror-effort/

**How this ISIS operative from Mangaluru lured her victims and converted them to Islam**


**ISIS or al-Qaeda: Which Looms as the Greater Threat to Global Security?**

https://smallwarsjournal.com/jrnl/art/isis-or-al-qaeda-which-looms-greater-threat-global-security
TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

Terror Threat in Asian Countries Declined in 2021, Singapore Think-Tank Reports

BenarNews: 6 January 2022

Terrorist threats in Southeast and South Asian countries declined in 2021, a Singapore think tank said in its annual threat assessment, noting that COVID-19 movement restrictions had “flattened the curve of terrorism.”


Sahel violence threatens West African coastal states

Mucahid Durmaz – Al Jazeera: 12 January 2022

Concerns grow that violence that has long crippled countries such as Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger will spill over farther south.


For more on this theme:

Taliban cracks down on more rights while demanding Western aid

https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2021/12/30/afghan-taliban-crackdown-aid/

Afghan Taliban turn blind eye to Pakistani militants

https://apnews.com/article/afghanistan-europe-pakistan-kabul-taliban-25bc607b1d2c73fd79f-ba8062b2ff81

The power of sport to quell violence in Africa


Jemaah Islamiyah’s infiltration of society raises concerns


TTP drives lethal wedge between Pakistan and Taliban


Taliban Rules Bring Uncertainty for Provincial Media


Taliban Bring Back Radical Religious Policing

https://www.nationalreview.com/corner/taliban-bring-back-radical-religious-policing/

West Africa & the Sahel – Linkages between Organized Crime & Terrorism Major Obstacles to Peace

IRREGULAR WARFARE: CYBER

FBI, NSA & CISA Issue Advisory on Russian Cyber Threat to US Critical Infrastructure
Dark Reading: 11 January 2022

At a time when U.S.-Russian diplomatic tensions are high after talks on security concerns between the nations, the U.S. Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, FBI and National Security Agency released a joint advisory on how to detect, respond to and mitigate cyberattacks from Russian state-sponsored hacking groups.

https://www.darkreading.com/threat-intelligence/fbi-nsa-cisa

For more on this theme:

China showing Myanmar junta how to firewall the internet
https://asiatimes.com/2021/12/china-showing-myanmar-how-to-firewall-the-internet/

China’s Tech Crackdown: A Year-in-Review
https://www.lawfareblog.com/chinas-tech-crackdown-year-review

What do Russia’s cyber moves mean for the Ukraine crisis?

UK military chief warns of Russian threat to vital undersea cables
https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/jan/08/uk-military-chief-warns-of-russian-threat-to-vital-undersea-cables

IRREGULAR WARFARE: PROXY FORCES AND PRIVATE MILITARY GROUPS

IRGC-linked factions step up activity against Kurdistan Region of Iraq
Shelly Kittleson – Al-Monitor: 12 January 2022

Armed factions in Iraq with links to Iran have increased accusations against Kurds in the country’s autonomous region and may have been behind some recent attacks on them.


For more on this theme:

Pro-Iran militias keep up attacks on US military targets in Iraq, Syria
https://thearabweekly.com/pro-iran-militias-keep-attacks-us-military-targets-iraq-syria

Russian Troops Deploy To Timbuktu In Mali After Withdrawal Of French Troops
https://www.rferl.org/a/mali-russian-troops-timbuktu/31642735.html

Rising instability in Mali raises fears about role of private Russian military group
IRREGULAR WARFARE: INFORMATION OPERATIONS AND MALIGN INFLUENCE

China in Latin America and the Caribbean
Dr. Evan Ellis joins Bonnie Glaser to discuss Chinese intentions, influence and impact in Latin America and the Caribbean.
https://www.gmfus.org/news/china-latin-america-and-caribbean

China and Russia Both Benefit From the CSTO Intervention in Kazakhstan
Far from causing friction, Russia’s intervention in Kazakhstan shows the durability of the Sino-Russian relationship.

For more on this theme:
Badiucao Explains How China Exports Its Propaganda and Censorship to the West

Japan and Australia’s new defense pact sends a ‘strong message’ to China, says analyst

China’s claims in South China Sea gravely undermines rule of law: US State Department study

China’s influence at the UN is growing—how, why, and what it means with Rosemary Foot
https://thehub.ca/2022-01-11/chinas-influence-at-the-un-is-growing/

Canada working on new China strategy, Joly says as PM calls out Beijing’s ‘coercive diplomacy’

China’s New Year Ambitions for Latin America and the Caribbean

Strategy and ambition: In Wang Yi visit, China’s long Africa game
https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/in-wang-yi-visit-chinas-long-africa-game-7720305/