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COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

Coalition's plan for anti-corruption body a 'sham' set up to protect MPs, former judge says
Christopher Knaus – The Guardian: 23 January 2019

Critics say Australia’s proposed public corruption-fighting agency is too weak to get the job done and would actually “shield parliamentarians and public servants” from scrutiny.


Conflicts and corruption in Cameroon drain the economy
Moki Kindzeka – Deutsche Welle: 23 January 2019

Cameroon is having trouble meeting its financial commitments, in the midst of facing rampant corruption, armed separatists fighting to create an English-speaking state, Boko Haram on the border, and spillover from the crisis in the Central African Republic.


For more on this theme:

Why this major Azerbaijan corruption scandal still matters in 2019

Ramaphosa calls on private sector to assist with fighting corruption

Saudi corruption crackdown stalls kingdom’s private jet industry

The Corruption Scandal that Could Upend Israeli Elections

South Africa Leader, Wooing Investors, Pledges End to Corruption

EU urges crackdown on ‘golden visas and passports’

Fighting corruption, creating jobs can curb terrorist attacks

Top Jordanian politicians arrested on corruption charges
https://www.apnews.com/f5d566479574431daa3e3a59c1144cd2
DRUG TRAFFICKING

Albanian mafia: the dangerous myth that distorts our view of the global drugs trade
Anna Sergi – The Conversation: 18 January 2019
The media in the United Kingdom has frequently reported on the “Albanian mafia” when discussing the illicit drug trade and human trafficking. But the myth of a well-organized criminal syndicate running cocaine rings and people-smuggling operations in the U.K. is misleading.

Malaysia to Focus on Health Not Criminality in New Drug Policy
Abhishek Vishnoi and Yudith Ho – Bloomberg: 19 January 2019
Focusing on treatment for users instead of punitive measures is part of Malaysia’s new strategy to combat drugs.

For more on this theme:
Sri Lanka to adopt PH drug war model

The U.S. Opioid Epidemic
https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/us-opioid-epidemic

El Chapo Trial Suggests Trump’s Wall Would Do Little to Stop Drug Smuggling

Mexico’s AMLO doubles down on a failed security policy: militarization

Army helps thwart illegal trafficking networks

The growing drug menace
http://www.jordantimes.com/opinion/editorial/growing-drug-menace

Crystal Meth Kingpins are Standing In the Way of Peace In Myanmar’s Golden Triangle
https://www.vice.com/en_in/article/vbw494/myanmar-civil-war-crystal-meth-golden-triangle

‘War on drugs’ doesn’t tackle the drug problem

Is Medically Prescribed Heroin the Answer to the Opioid Crisis?
https://www.healthline.com/health-news/can-prescription-heroin-help-save-lives

Pharma Spending on Doctors Is Correlated With Opioid Deaths
https://www.wired.com/story/pharma-spending-on-doctors-is-correlated-with-opioid-deaths/
TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

Hong Kong failing to tackle wildlife smuggling epidemic: study
Agence France-Presse: 21 January 2019

The illegal wildlife trade in Hong Kong is booming, according to a new study, and is contributing to a global extinction crisis by supplying an increasing demand for wildlife products in Asia, particularly China.


Full report:
Trading in Extinction: The Dark Side of Hong Kong’s Wildlife Trade

Indigenous Women Leading Charge in Wildlife Conservation
Bonnie Chiu – Forbes: 22 January 2019

Grassroots solutions that focus on indigenous communities — such as the formation of “female engagement teams” to promote wildlife conservation — need to be supported and expanded.


For more on this theme:
What will it take to stop illegal online wildlife trafficking?
https://www.equaltimes.org/what-will-it-take-to-stop-illegal#.XErGPc1G0aE

Wildlife / How can Cambodia take on the mammoth task of fighting its illegal ivory trade?

Fake GPS turtle eggs are being used to help track wildlife poachers

Facial recognition tool tackles illegal chimp trade

Elephant ears, hippo hide boots and other wildlife body parts ‘illegally’ on sale at US hunters’ gathering

Wildlife trade: India helps foresters fight back against cyber crime

SA joins forces with Namibia to tackle illegal fishing

Illegal fishing key areas could be tracked by fuel tankers
https://www.governmenteuropa.eu/illegal-fishing-key-areas/91994/
HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND IRREGULAR MIGRATION

Human traffickers’ new tool to lure children: online video games
Caitlin Johnston – Tampa Bay Times: 21 January 2019
The arrest of seven people in St. Petersburg, Florida, is a grim reminder that in addition to regular social media, online games can be a recruitment tool for human trafficking.

UN Migration Pact Needs Further Development but is Step in Right Direction
Marina Khan – The Globe Post: 24 January 2019
The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration signed by 164 nations in Marrakech, Morocco, was the culmination or more than two years of negotiations. While the compact is not perfect, it is a significant step toward a global approach to migration.
https://theglobepost.com/2019/01/23/migration-pact-un/

For more on this theme:
The Global Compact's Controversy: Is Migration a Human Right or Privilege?
https://www.eubulletin.com/9457-the-global-compacts-controversy-is-migration-a-human-right-or-privilege.html
Hotel chains training staff to spot victims of human trafficking in their midst
Human trafficking: Victims ‘stuck in limbo for years’
Human Trafficking Increases Worldwide
Saint Lucia launches anti-human trafficking hotline
EU: Italy’s choice to end or continue Operation Sophia
https://euobserver.com/migration/143997
Migrants and Refugees Do Not Bring ‘Exotic Communicable Diseases’ to Countries, World Health Organization Report States
Confronting the challenges of migration in West and Central Africa
Mediterranean states agree to more cooperation on human smuggling
PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

INTERNET GOVERNANCE

Geneva meeting continues attempt to create no-go rules for cyber space
Howard Solomon – IT World Canada: 23 January 2019
The two-day meeting in Geneva, Switzerland, of the Global Commission on the Security of Cyberspace was focused on trying to get an agreement about how countries and technology firms should behave on the internet. The issue continues to be an uphill battle.
https://www.itworldcanada.com/article/geneva-meeting-continues-attempt-to-create-no-go-rules-for-cyber-space/414410

For more on this theme:
(Global) FIC 2019: Developing multilateral regulations for cyberspace
https://www.information-age.com/multilateral-regulations-for-cyberspace-123478392/
(U.S., Global) Protect Access to Safe Online Pharmacies Through Cyber Policy
http://www.circleid.com/posts/20190122_protect_access_to_safe_online_pharmacies_through_cyber_policy/
(Global) IoT Realm Seeks Governance
https://i-hls.com/archives/88454

INTERNET FREEDOM

India’s Plan to Curb Hate Speech Could Mean More Censorship
Paris Martineau – Wired: 18 January 2019
India’s new rules to govern social media raise fears of more censorship. A new draft policy would force a whole range of internet companies to remove content from their platforms to curtail the misuse of social media and stop fake news from spreading.

For more on this theme:
(Zimbabwe) Internet shutdown challenged
https://www.newsdays.co.zw/2019/01/internet-shutdown-challenged/
(Canada, UAE, Global) Canadian Internet Filtering Company Says It’s Stopped ‘Alternative Lifestyles’ Censorship
(Iran) Iran’s Rouhani slams extensive internet censorship
PRIVACY AND SECURITY

Record Google fine shakes up privacy fight

France’s data protection watchdog group fined Alphabet’s Google 50 million euros for breaching European Union internet privacy rules. Because of an increase in sanction limits under the EU’s General Data Protection Regulation, the fine is the largest imposed on a U.S. tech company.

https://thehill.com/policy/technology/426520-record-google-fine-shakes-up-privacy-fight

For more on this theme:

(Global) As Technology Advances, What Will Happen With Online Privacy?
https://www.forbes.com/sites/quora/2019/01/15/as-technology-advances-what-will-happen-with-online-privacy/#3a630b4b1c45

(Global) 2019 Data Privacy Wish List: Moving From Compliance To Concern

(Global) Can Trademarks and Brands Help Save the Internet From Itself?
http://www.circleid.com/posts/20190122_can_trademarks_and_brands_help_to_save_the_internet_from_itself/

CYBER STATECRAFT DEVELOPMENT

Can State’s New Cyber Bureau Hack It?
Robbie Gramer and Elias Groll – Foreign Policy: 18 January 2019

The U.S. State Department is working to re-establish its cyber security bureau, but debates among lawmakers about its purpose and mandate are holding up progress.


For more on this theme:

(Global) Bytes, Bombs, and Spies: The Strategic Dimensions of Offensive Cyber Operations

(China) China Wants to Dominate the Internet
PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

Partnerships and Research Bring Ohio to the Forefront of Technology Innovation
The Associated Press: 23 January 2019

The U.S. state of Ohio is becoming a leader in technology innovation as public and private institutions take advantage of strong partnerships.
https://www.apnews.com/8372cbe1cb3046e38ce7a4a04f9197a7

For more on this theme:
(U.S.) The push to expand broadband
https://thelens.news/2019/01/24/the-push-to-expand-broadband/

(Caribbean) Building the Caribbean digital economy bit by bit

PROTECTION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

U.S.-China Trade Talks Falling Short on Make-or-Break IP Issues
Shawn Donnan and Jenny Leonard – Bloomberg: 21 January 2019

Despite claims that talks with China are progressing well, little progress has been made on a key issue — Chinese theft of American intellectual property.

For more on this theme:
(China) China’s digital backdoor: Huawei in Southeast Asia

(China, U.S.) Chinese IP sanctions and the cybersecurity dilemma

(EU, Australia) Australia’s military chief warns Europe of cyber crime dangers
CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING

Internet service for all Thai villages by end of this year
The Phnom Penh Post: 24 January 2019

Thailand is poised to expand internet access to an additional 50,000 villages this year.

For more on this theme:
(Global) UN chief urges top digital tech panel to come up with ‘bold, innovative ideas’ for an ‘inclusive’ future

(Global) Trust in digital has eroded. Leaders must rebuild it
https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2019/01/trust-in-digital-has-eroded-leaders-must-rebuild-it/

COMBATING TERRORISM AND CYBER CRIME

Young Dutch cyber criminals get re-education rather than jail time
Tijs Hofmans – Computer Weekly: 22 January 2019

The Netherlands is seeking to rehabilitate young hackers through education. Youths convicted of cyber crimes are being put to work in information technology departments in the private sector instead of serving prison time.

For more on this theme:
(U.S.) What the U.S. Pursuit of Nation-State Hackers Means for Cybercrime Victims and Targets

(Global) Crime stats show switch in focus by cyber criminals

(U.K.) UK Police to Take Cybersecurity Courses to Increase Cyber Crime Knowledge
INFORMATION SHARING

Can the National Guard help solve states’ cyber problems?
Mark Pomerleau – Fifth Domain: 23 January 2019

The U.S. Department of Defense is working with the National Guard to help states and federal agencies improve coordination and information sharing during a cyber emergency.


For more on this theme:

(U.S.) Intel strategy targets cyber threats

(Global) Bettering Threat Intelligence And Cyber Security A New Role For Blockchain?

(U.S.) You Hold the Key to Safeguard Your Private Information
https://apnews.com/bfa87a22b1f346ab998c23571d47117c

CYBER PROTECTION OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

How is cyber-protection evolving to meet NIS requirement in the utility sector?
Information Age: 21 January 2019

Daniel Lewis, CEO of Awen Collective, explains why utility companies need to evolve their cyber security to meet the Network and Information Systems Directive on Security (NIS) – the first European cyber regulation addressing the security of systems essential to society.


For more on this theme:

(U.S.) Critical Infrastructure: 2018 Cybersecurity Year in Review/2019 Year Ahead Analysis

(Global) Five Steps to Protect National Infrastructure

(U.S.) With cybersecurity threats looming, the government shutdown is putting America at risk
PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

ISIS

**Down to Its Last 2 Villages in Syria, ISIS Still Fights Back**  

Though ISIS once controlled 60,000 square miles and cities in Syria and Iraq, the terrorist group now controls only 6 square miles and two villages in Syria. With the loss of territory, ISIS is returning to its guerrilla tactics to conduct attacks.  

**Tracking Jihadist Movements in 2019: The Islamic State**  
*Stratfor: 23 January 2019*

Examining the different manifestations of ISIS, the intelligence website Stratfor provides an overview of the terrorist group’s activities and a forecast of its actions for the coming year.  

For more on this theme:

**Exclusive: Iraqi scientist says he helped ISIS make chemical weapons**  

**Trump ‘handed Isis propaganda victory’ with Syria troop withdrawal, UK terror police chief says**  

**ISIS launches massive counter-offensive in eastern Euphrates**  

**Nigeria: Islamic State claims attack on Geidam military base**  

**Jihadi dubbed ‘the voice of ISIS’ who narrated terror group’s sick videos ‘is captured’**  
https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/world-news/jihadi-dubbed-the-voice-isis-13883284

**Several Al-Qaeda fighters killed in new ISIS attack in central Yemen**  

**ISIS and Us**  
https://www.nationalreview.com/corner/isis-and-us/

**Opinion: Leaving Syria Is Far Less Risky Than Staying**  
https://www.npr.org/2019/01/19/686489841/opinion-leaving-syria-is-far-less-risky-than-staying

**Senators urge Trump to put Islamic State prisoners in Gitmo**  
https://apnews.com/475da6fd6a2149c1b36eacf908541f66
TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

Al Qaeda ideologue justifies Shabaab’s war with the Islamic State in Somalia
Thomas Joscelyn – Long War Journal: 23 January 2019
An al-Qaida ideologue in Syria issued a religious justification for al-Shabaab’s fight against ISIS in Somalia.

Taliban agree Isil and Al-Qaeda will be barred from Afghanistan in major concession during talks with US
Ben Farmer – The Telegraph: 24 January 2019
The Taliban is reportedly on board with blocking al-Qaida and ISIS from entering Afghanistan to plot terrorist attacks. Such an agreement has been a requirement that the U.S. has pushed for, and it comes as the U.S. and the Taliban are participating in discussions in Doha, Qatar, about how to resolve the conflict in Afghanistan.

For more on this theme:
Al-Qaeda’s shadow still hangs over Syria’s Idlib: Analysts

Al-Qaeda’s Disciples Still a Threat to African Business Hub

Somalia’s Al-Qaeda-linked al-Shabaab

Why al-Shabaab targets Kenya and how to stop the attacks

Tracking Jihadist Movements in 2019: Al Qaeda

Toward Understanding the Actions of the Islamic State and Other Jihadist Groups as Military Doctrine

Are Hezbollah’s Attack Tunnels the Future of Warfare?
https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/are-hezbollah%E2%80%99s-attack-tunnels-future-warfare-41977

Al-Shabab Wants You To Know It’s Alive and Well
RADICALIZATION AND MESSAGING

Community Engagement to Prevent Radicalization in the EU
Maria Lozano Alia – European Eye on Radicalization: 21 January 2019
According to the European Union’s legal framework, the role of communities in preventing and countering violent extremism has always been pivotal for European institutions.

Gender, Masculinities, and Counterterrorism
Catherine Powell and Rebecca Turkington – Council on Foreign Relations: 23 January 2019
Looking at countering violent extremism through a gender lens can shed light on how gender affects recruitment, radicalization processes, operational roles, sentencing and rehabilitation — for both men and women.
https://www.cfr.org/blog/gender-masculinities-and-counterterrorism

For more on this theme:
Jose Calida: ‘Foreign terrorists continue training of local recruits’

Far-right Groups Using Islamist Techniques to Recruit
https://clarionproject.org/far-right-groups-using-islamist-techniques-to-recruit-%E2%80%A8/

Social exclusion ‘can be a trigger for extremism’
https://www.easterneye.biz/social-exclusion-can-be-a-trigger-for-extremism/

Anti radicalization campaign launched in Garissa to combat terrorism
http://www.kbc.co.ke/anti-radicalization-campaign-launched-in-garissa-to-combat-terrorism/

Ayub Mohamud teaches against radicalization, militia recruitment
https://ntv.nation.co.ke/news/2720124-4943730-10jytub/index.html

Inside Look at Brainwashing Tactics Used by Radicals

Institution Of Violent Islamism: The Guilt Of Claiming The Truth – Analysis

Prevent strategy on radicalisation faces independent review
https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/jan/22/prevent-strategy-on-radicalisation-faces-independent-review
FOREIGN FIGHTERS

Evidence Sharing Will Be Key In Prosecuting Fighters Returning From Islamic State  
Nikita Malik – Forbes: 24 January 2019

As foreign fighters are stripped of their citizenship, where to prosecute them becomes a hot topic. What if one nation has the death penalty and another does not? Is it right for one country to share information with another? These are among the questions countries such as the United Kingdom and U.S. face as they seek to prosecute foreign fighters.


For more on this theme:

Islamic State Somalia eulogizes foreign fighters  

Belgium can’t keep ‘Islamic State’ fighters’ families out  

COUNTERTERRORISM STRATEGIES

NYPD stresses work with overseas partners in terror fight  

The extent of coordination between the New York City Police Department and overseas intelligence agencies has expanded the department’s ability to thwart potential lone-wolf attacks.


For more on this theme:

MPs pass counter-terror bill amendments to protect aid workers  

UK top counter-terrorism cop warns of ‘no-deal’ Brexit risks  

Government shutdown is compromising FBI counter-terrorism operations, report finds  

New counter terrorism campaign launched in cinemas  

Counter-terrorism requires global approach – G5 Sahel scribe  