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CORRUPTION

Kyrgyz Optimistic About Country's Direction and Economy, But Troubled by Corruption
Catherine Putz – The Diplomat: 6 February 2018

Though corruption remains a major issue in Kyrgyzstan, a recent poll indicates citizens are optimistic about the country’s prospects. Unfortunately, optimism in a public opinion poll has in the past shown little correlation to true reforms.

Corruption – is there a cure?
Adina Trunk – Euractiv: 5 February 2018

There is reason to hope that corruption can be controlled and decreased through technology, democratic transparency, political competition, civil society and a variety of other factors that have shown promise.
https://www.euractiv.com/section/justice-home-affairs/opinion/corruption-is-there-a-cure/

For more on this theme:

Ukrainian asset declarations reform seen letting corrupt officials off hook

Can College Basketball Fix Its Corruption Problem?
http://www.ozy.com/the-huddle/can-college-basketball-fix-its-corruption-problem/81917

Nigeria’s anti-corruption judge accused of being “corrupt”

Romania’s anti-corruption crackdown echoes a darker past
https://euobserver.com/opinion/140824

EU flags fraud and corruption in refugee settlements in Uganda

Romanian anti-corruption fighters blow the whistle

Anti-Corruption Campaign In Saudi Arabia Raises Questions On Economic Health Of Country
https://www.npr.org/2018/02/05/583461835/anti-corruption-campaign-in-saudi-arabia-raises-questions-on-economic-health-of-

The Rot at the Heart of Brazil’s Anti-Corruption Crusade
DRUG TRAFFICKING

Philippines' Rodrigo Duterte rejects crimes against humanity probe into 'drug war'

Deutsche Welle: 8 February 2018

The International Criminal Court in The Hague is taking the first steps to examine a complaint filed by a Filipino lawyer against the country’s president, accusing him of crimes against humanity and mass murder through his war on drugs. While this doesn’t mean legal proceedings will occur — or even an official investigation — it does mean they haven’t yet thrown out the complaint.


Trump Says He Will Focus On Opioid Law Enforcement, Not Treatment


U.S. President Donald Trump has publicly stated that he is more focused on the law enforcement side of the opioid epidemic than the treatment side.

https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2018/02/07/584059938/trump-says-he-will-focus-on-opioid-law-enforcement-not-treatment

For more on this theme:

Secret report: Honduras’ new top cop helped cartel move coke
https://apnews.com/0cc4031c058545fb9247ce5095c644c0

Trump Plan to Move Drug Prevention Program to Justice Dept. Prompts Protests

Doubts rise over effectiveness of bombing Afghan drug labs

European bank caught laundering Mexican drug money

American Samoa’s unemployed said to be used in drug trade

How Chinese mafias reinvented Spain’s marijuana trade
https://elpais.com/elpais/2018/02/02/inenglish/1517575312_291532.html

Australia’s cocaine trade began taking shape almost a century ago

UNODC Launches Policy Publications to Tackle Drug Abuse

Extreme violence on rise in provincial drug trade
https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/extreme-violence-on-rise-in-provincial-drug-trade-mtf3gqjbv
TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

Rhino poaching in South Africa has dipped but corruption hinders progress
Keith Somerville – The Conversation: 8 February 2018

While the number of rhinos poached in South Africa dipped slightly in 2017, it still marked the fifth consecutive year that more than 1,000 were killed. Widespread corruption and mismanagement are limiting the country’s ability to effectively deal with the issue.

Almost four environmental defenders a week killed in 2017
Jonathan Watts – The Guardian: 2 February 2018

There were 197 people killed last year while defending land, wildlife or natural resources, according to data from the nongovernmental organization Global Witness. The number is four times what it was in 2002.

For more on this theme:
Poached Abalone from South Africa is Flowing into Hong Kong Markets

Vietnam strengthens law enforcement efforts to protect wildlife

Tanzania, China hail cooperation on wildlife conservation

Government to gradually legalize illegal mining - Deputy Minister

Smuggling in fuel to fill demand in one of Africa’s biggest oil-producers

Fuel tankers used for drugs, ivory, arms smuggling operations across Zimbabwe — South Africa

Illegal logging: Cambodia’s murderous problem
http://www.phnompenhpost.com/opinion/illegal-logging-cambodias-murderous-problem

How illegal logging on Mt. Kenya and Aberdare forests threatens Kenya’s water supply
http://www.mediamaxnetwork.co.ke/news/406865/406865/

Peru’s Fight Against Illegal Timber Trade at Risk as Authorities Weaken Rules and Inspections, According to EIA’s Moment of Truth Report
http://www.digitaljournal.com/pr/3649487
HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND IRREGULAR MIGRATION

Human smugglers in Libya have links to security services: U.N. report
Michelle Nichols – Reuters: 7 February 2018

Human trafficking is on the rise in Libya, according to a report by a United Nations panel of experts. The panel found that Libyan forces may be helping rebel groups tighten their control of smuggling routes. The confidential report, sent to the U.N. Security Council, also said that ISIS is seeking to join migrant smugglers in southern Libya.

Migration: Young Footballers Trafficked, Abused Abroad
Christiana Nwaogu – Leadership: 9 February 2018

A recent investigation indicates that underage footballers are being trafficked and abused at an alarming rate. Promised careers in football abroad, the boys are being sold into slavery. Others are illegally migrating to Europe in the hope of becoming stars.

For more on this theme:

Pope Francis: Human Trafficking Is Fueled by Lack of ‘Regular Channels’ for Migration

UAE and Thailand sign MoU on human trafficking

Boys — the silent victims of sex trafficking

Human trafficking: recognize signs, stay alert

Curbing Irregular Migration: Forum Tasks Govt. On More Sensitization
http://www.aitonline.tv/post-curbing_irregular_migration__forum_tasks_govt__on_more_sensitization

Italy accused of subjecting 10,000 migrants to ‘deplorable’ conditions as Berlusconi labels them a ‘time bomb’
INTERNET GOVERNANCE

Analysis Of The Working Group On Enhanced Cooperation On Public Policy Issues Pertaining To The Internet

Intellectual Property Watch: 5 February 2018

After the failure of the first United Nations Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation, which was formed to address issues related to the internet and its governance, a second working group was created. So far, it has proven a failure as well.


For more on this theme:

(Georgia) European Dialogue on Internet Governance to Be Held in Georgia

(U.S.) Net Neutrality in the United States
https://today.law.harvard.edu/net-neutrality-united-states/

(Africa) dotAfrica completes promotional expedition

INTERNET FREEDOM


Global Voices: 8 February 2018

Macau’s government is proposing legislation to ensure the “security of network communications.” Critics, however, call the law an attempt to increase surveillance and censorship.


For more on this theme:

(Russia) Internet Censorship Skyrockets in Russia in 2017, Study Says


(China) Chinese regulator raps internet firms over vulgar content
PRIVACY AND SECURITY

The Guardian view on internet privacy: it's the psychology, stupid: Editorial
The Guardian: 8 February 2018

Privacy is gone, according to The Guardian’s editorial board. As an example of privacy’s demise, the board cites the ease with which large corporations and governments gather and search huge caches of internet data.


For more on this theme:

(Zambia) Zambia tables legislation to regulate social media

(Turkey) Turkey's broadcasting watchdog to monitor online content under draft law

(China) China: the web closes in
https://www.lowyinstitute.org/the-interpreter/china-web-closes

CYBER STATECRAFT DEVELOPMENT

Navigating ASEAN's patchy cyber security landscape
Aaron Tan – ComputerWeekly.com: January 2018

Across Southeast Asia there are issues with cyber security. As an economic leader, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) needs to step up its security efforts.

http://www.computerweekly.com/feature/Navigating-ASEANs-patchy-cyber-security-landscape

For more on this theme:

(Global) 'A New City O/S' presents new vision for organizing local government

(Global) Stopping the Next Cyber Conflict
https://www.thecipherbrief.com/column/cyber-advisor/stopping-next-cyber-conflict

(Global) The truth and nothing but the truth
PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

Norway's government backs cyber defence mobilization
Gerard O’Dwyer – ComputerWeekly.com: 8 February 2018

Norway is focusing on public/private partnerships and the nation’s national security infrastructure to protect its cyber infrastructure from Russian infiltration.


For more on this theme:
(U.S.) Public Service Commission, Entergy and C Spire team up in public-private partnership to help bridge “digital divide” in Mississippi

(Canada) Bell and City of Kingston partner for Smart City program

(U.S.) San Francisco's Muni-Broadband Network to Demand Net Neutrality
http://www.dslreports.com/shownews/San-Franciscos-MuniBroadband-Network-to-Demand-Net-Neutrality-141171

PROTECTION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

All-time high levels of fraud and cyber issues plague industries today – report
Victor Barreiro Jr. – Rappler: 8 February 2018

The 10th annual Kroll Global Fraud Risk Report found increasing levels of fraud, security and cyber-related issues faced by companies in 2017. The global survey indicates that these high levels are likely to increase in 2018.


For more on this theme:
(Russia) Drones to cloud computing: Russian cyber hack wish list
https://www.plant.ca/technology/drones-cloud-computing-russian-cyber-hack-wish-list-173164/

(U.S., Global) Top Threat to Business, National Security and the American Dream: Detailing the New Global Competitive Model Based on Cyber and Asymmetrical Hybrid Warfare

(Global) Companies lack the knowledge to defend themselves from cyber attacks
https://www.v3.co.uk/v3-uk/news/3026122/companies-lack-the-knowledge-to-defend-themselves-from-cyber-attacks
CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING

As the world goes digital, is there a hack for inequality?
Sophie Davies – Reuters: 5 February 2018

In Barcelona, Spain, the city is attempting to bridge the digital divide by providing online classes, access to jobs and integrating disadvantaged people into a digital society. But how effective are such programs?


For more on this theme:

(U.S.) DOD Network Defense HQ Up and Running
https://www.afcea.org/content/tending-goal-us-cyber-commands-network-defense-headquarters

(India) Number of people getting connected internet in India to double: Google India MD Rajan Anandan

(U.S.) The case for hiring a federal cyber officer

COMBATING TERRORISM AND CYBER CRIME

Cyber police: What are Ukrainian virtual cops doing?
Tetiana Sviatenko – 112 UA: 5 February 2018

Ukraine’s Department of Cyber Police is working to solve cyber crimes that occurred before the department existed. Formed only a few years ago, the department has received high praise for its work.


For more on this theme:

(ASEAN) ASEAN remains ‘prime target’ for cyberattacks

(U.S., Ukraine) U.S. shuts down cyber crime ring launched by Ukrainian
https://news.trust.org/item/20180207180544-mfvj8

(U.S.) An ‘Iceberg’ of Unseen Crimes: Many Cyber Offenses Go Unreported
INFORMATION SHARING

BT strengthens cyber security with information sharing move
Alan Burkitt-Gray – Global Telecoms Business: 7 February 2018

United Kingdom-based telecommunications company BT Security has begun sharing data about malicious software and websites with rival internet service providers, and it wants everyone to know about it. The firm urges competitors to become more open about security threats.


For more on this theme:
(U.S., Ukraine) House passes bill aimed at boosting cyber cooperation with Ukraine

(U.S.) Crowdsourcing cyber threat defense

(Global) Why Every Company Should Consider Creating a “Cyber No-Fly List”
https://hbr.org/2018/02/why-every-company-should-consider-creating-a-cyber-no-fly-list

(U.S.) DHS S&T Awards $5.6M to Improve Cybersecurity Research
http://www.newswise.com/articles/dhs-st-awards-5.6m-to-improve-cybersecurity-research

CYBER PROTECTION OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Critical infrastructure firms face crackdown over poor cybersecurity
Eerke Boiten – The Conversation: 30 January 2018

A cyber security law that is focused on critical infrastructure will become enforceable across the European Union in May. As it plans to exit the EU, the United Kingdom is considering the law’s impact on the country.


For more on this theme:
(U.S., Global) Pay Attention to Probing, Persistent Attacks Against Critical Infrastructure

(Global) Vienna Cyber Security Week 2018: International cyber security scene meets in Vienna

(U.S.) DHS cyber chief: Russia ‘successfully penetrated’ some state voter rolls
ISIS

Al-Qaeda more dangerous than Islamic State in some parts of the world, warn UN experts
The New Arab: 8 February 2018
The Islamic State still poses “a significant and evolving threat around the world” despite setbacks in Iraq, Syria and the southern Philippines that forced the terrorist group to relinquish strongholds, according to the United Nations.
https://www.alaraby.co.uk/english/news/2018/2/7/al-qaeda-more-dangerous-than-is-in-some-areas-un

The Islamic State’s toxic farewell: Environmental sabotage and chronic disease
Tamer El-Ghobashy and Joby Warrick – The Washington Post: 5 February 2018
Retreating ISIS militants blew up oil wells, wreaking havoc on local environments and causing numerous health issues. Their legacy also includes wide-scale cattle deaths, fallow fields and chronic breathing issues, according to experts.

For more on this theme:

Islamic State fighters move to Syria’s Idlib, clash with factions: report

Iraq targets ‘Islamic State’ remnants amid emerging threat

Isis exploits chaos to hit back in Iraq and Syria
https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/isis-exploits-chaos-to-hit-back-in-iraq-and-syria-q8ml17jqm

Is President Trump Enabling the Islamic State’s Power of Persuasion?
https://www.lawfareblog.com/president-trump-enabling-islamic-states-power-persuasion

Islamic State stronghold in Afghanistan is a threat to regional peace, says Ahsan Iqbal

Women of ISIS Demand Equal Rights to Wage Violent Jihad, Claim to Be Girls With the Souls of Men, According to Letter

Islamic State threatens Iran from ‘Tora Bora’ borderlands
https://in.reuters.com/article/iran-iraq-islamic-state/islamic-state-threatens-iran-from-tora-bora-borderlands-idINKBN1FP1G6
TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

Al Qaeda trying to regroup in Tunisia after Islamic State setbacks: sources
Tarek Amara and Lamine Chikhi – Reuters: 7 February 2018

After the recent blows to ISIS, al-Qaida is attempting to regroup in Tunisia to reassert its presence throughout Africa. The terrorist group is increasing its use of militaristic language to lure away former ISIS fighters.


Islamic State, al-Qaeda Support Fuels Attacks in West Africa
Olivier Monnier – Bloomberg: 5 February 2018

Even as al-Qaida and ISIS fight for dominance in Africa, reports say some of their affiliates are cooperating on an operational level. The most recent attacks indicate that militants have shared information, according to the United Nations.


For more on this theme:

Al-Qaeda more dangerous than Islamic State in some parts of the world, warn UN experts
https://www.alaraby.co.uk/english/news/2018/2/7/al-qaeda-more-dangerous-than-is-in-some-areas-un

The Islamic State Threat to Hamas
https://lobelog.com/the-islamic-state-threat-to-hamas/

Report: Hamas Being Targeted by Gazans Who Joined Islamic State in Sinai

How many times shall we defeat Boko Haram?
https://www.vanguardngr.com/2018/02/many-times-shall-defeat-boko-haram/

Video: Boko Haram leader calls himself ‘invincible’ but also ‘tired’

The Resurgence of al-Shabaab
https://jamestown.org/program/resurgence-al-shabaab/

Putting the Squeeze on Iran via Hezbollah
https://www.thecipherbrief.com/putting-squeeze-iran-via-hezbollah
RADICALIZATION AND MESSAGING

Study: Extremists still flourishing in Indonesia’s prisons
Niniek Kammini – The Associated Press: 9 February 2018

Prison overcrowding is hampering efforts to reduce the radicalization of inmates. Known worldwide as a breeding ground for radicalization, Indonesia is being warned by experts that its inability to accommodate Islamic militant inmates will become a serious problem, if it isn’t already.

https://hosted.ap.org/standardspeaker/article/b1d8e7bf7c9f49448410f6ac0b7919ee/study-extremists-still-flourishing-indonesias-prisons

Deradicalization in Uzbekistan: It’s About the Economy
James D. Durso – The Diplomat: 8 February 2018

Uzbekistan is focusing on some of the root causes of terrorism and turning to employment and connections with religious leaders to counter radicalization.


For more on this theme:

Marsabit Parents decry radicalization of youth by Clerics
http://www.kbc.co.ke/county-news/marsabit-parents-decry-radicalization-youth-clerics/

US Prisons Don’t Have A Way To De-Radicalize Terrorists, Study Finds

Partnership key to ensuring all children can access education – senior UN officials

Tajikistan, Most Muslim Country in Central Asia, Struggles to Rein In Islam
https://jamestown.org/program/tajikistan-muslim-country-central-asia-struggles-rein-islam/

FOREIGN FIGHTERS

Editorial: Bracing for Islamic State’s westward migration
Chicago Tribune: 6 February 2018

Fears of foreign fighters returning to the U.S. have so far failed to materialize. But the editorial board at the Chicago Tribune contends that the threat remains very real: ISIS is turning west to conduct attacks.


For more on this theme:

Study: ISIS has lost territory but could still pose long-term threat

Germany Alarmed by ‘Kindergarten Jihadists’
COUNTERTERRORISM STRATEGIES

Military’s regional role in counter-terrorism
Tan See Seng – New Straight Times: 7 February 2018

In the face of growing threats, members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and their militaries are likely to deepen counterterrorism collaboration among themselves and with international partners. That cooperation is expected to include an increase in counterterrorism exercises and offers of military assistance to counter threats.


For more on this theme:

Israelis target ISIS fighters in Egypt as part of covert counterterrorism pact
https://www.washingtonpost.com/?utm_term=.a90b882c4581

Hezbollah Border Dispute Places Region On Edge

Declassifying ‘Lone-Wolf’ Terrorism: Formulating A ‘Counter-Terror’ Strategy – Analysis

The Destabilizing Dangers of U.S. Counterterrorism in the Sahel

ASEAN to step up counter-terrorism cooperation