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COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

There’s been a mysterious surge in $100 bills in circulation, possibly linked to global corruption
Kate Rooney – CNBC: 27 February 2019

The amount of $100 bills in circulation is surging — and may be a sign of global corruption since high-denomination bills are a go-to for criminals.

How young people are turning the tide against corruption
Blair Glencorse and Friday Odeh – World Economic Forum: 22 February 2019

As corruption scandals rock numerous countries, young people are not hopeful for the future. But they are coming up with creative and collective ways to push back against graft.
https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2019/02/how-young-people-are-turning-the-tide-against-corruption/

For more on this theme:

China’s Top Anti-Corruption Organ Declares Safeguarding Xi’s Status Its Top Priority

Israel’s Attorney General Moves To Indict Netanyahu On Corruption Charges
https://www.npr.org/2019/02/28/698914797/israels-attorney-general-moves-to-indict-netanyahu-on-corruption-charges

SNC-Lavalin: Trudeau denies wrongdoing in corruption case

Africa’s biggest fund manager warned about government corruption

Mexico is being held to ransom by oil thieves and systemic corruption
https://theconversation.com/mexico-is-being-held-to-ransom-by-oil-thieves-and-systemic-corruption-111118

Cabinet approves corruption watchdog
https://cyprus-mail.com/2019/02/28/cabinet-approves-corruption-watchdog/

South Africa’s Cyril Ramaphosa names special tribunal to recover corruption proceeds

Ukraine president tries to salvage corruption law as tough election looms

Nigeria’s Anti-Corruption Vote
https://foreignpolicy.com/2019/02/28/nigerias-anti-corruption-vote/
DRUG TRAFFICKING

After El Chapo: Sinaloa, other Mexican drug cartels still strong, and now diversifying
Kevin McCoy – USA Today: 22 February 2019

El Chapo’s conviction will do little to change the face of Mexican drug gangs. The Sinaloa cartel remains strong, and other cartels also pose similar dangers.

Has the decade-old war on drugs in Asia succeeded?
Claudia Stoicescu and Gideon Lasco – Al Jazeera: 23 February 2019

Ten years into the war on drugs, the policies of harsh penalties and brutal force have failed to bring the drug problem in check.
https://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/war-drugs-asia-succeeded-190218160811303.html

For more on this theme:

A Guatemala Drug Trafficking Chapter Ends in the US

The End of the Big Cartels

Researcher studies impact of drug-trafficking violence

Most Filipinos believe cops into EJKs, drug trade, planting evidence — SWS

North Koreans reportedly use crystal meth as casually as cigarettes and are shipping the drug to China

India’s opioid paradox
https://newint.org/features/2019/02/28/india%E2%80%99s-opioid-paradox

It’s Getting More Expensive to Get High

China And The New Drug War

US ends campaign to destroy Taliban drug labs in Afghanistan

Australia needs a new strategy to deal with illicit drug use

Pacific Drug Routes From South America More Popular Than Atlantic
TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

**Kew's tree library leads hi-tech war on illegal logging**
Robin McKie – The Guardian: 24 February 2019

Using research from the Kew Gardens tree library is helping customs officers identify and seize illicitly trafficked timber. By comparing wood from its collection, Kew researchers are able to identify where the seized timber is from and what type of log the customs officer has uncovered.

https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/feb/24/kew-gardens-tree-library-war-on-illegal-logging

**How does traditional Chinese medicine threaten wildlife?**
Jani Actman – National Geographic: 27 February 2019

Traditional medicine remains strongly favored in China and has spread worldwide in many cases. This medicine, however, often relies on the parts of endangered animals, which must be poached and trafficked to meet demands.

https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/reference/traditional-chinese-medicine/

*For more on this theme:*  
**The African pangolin's future is bleak as Asian demand and local corruption drives up poaching**

**Vaquita still doomed without further disruption of totoaba cartels**

**“Wildlife - not pets”: Experts warn of risks behind exotic pet craze**

**Pakistan wildlife organisations committed to tackle online illegal trade**

**Qatar Airways launches training programme to combat illegal wildlife trafficking**

**Global effort can curb trafficking**

**In Show of Bipartisanship, House Approves a Sweeping Land Conservation Bill**

**Spotlight on sustainable use and community management of wild resources in Central Asia**

**Indonesian rescuers pull survivors from collapse of illegal gold mine**
HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND IRREGULAR MIGRATION

Europe's deadly migration strategy
Zach Campbell – Politico: 28 February 2019

While publicly hailed as a success, Operation Sophia has faced obstacles that limited its ability to address the migrant crisis in the Mediterranean, according to internal memos.

https://www.politico.eu/article/europe-deadly-migration-strategy-leaked-documents/

For more on this theme:

A New Frontier to Combat Human Trafficking

The Need to Combat Human Trafficking Worldwide
https://inpublicsafety.com/2019/02/the-need-to-combat-human-trafficking-worldwide/

Hilton's New Human Trafficking Policy May Hurt Victims More Than Help

Burkina Faso, theater raises awareness on risks of migration

General Assembly President Stresses 'Benefits of Migration Outweigh Challenges', at High-Level Meeting on International Migration, Development
https://reliefweb.int/report/world/general-assembly-president-stresses-benefits-migration-outweigh-challenges-high-level
PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

INTERNET GOVERNANCE

China's digital protectionism puts the future of the global Internet at risk

China has been building its internet firewall for some time now. While it serves to filter information to its citizens, it also serves as a form of commercial protectionism.


For more on this theme:
(Global) IPv4 Versus IPv6: Is The Internet Facing A Split?

(Russia) Is Russia’s drive towards internet ‘sovereignty’ just a new Iron Curtain?
https://www.trtworld.com/magazine/is-russia-s-drive-towards-internet-sovereignty-just-a-new-iron-curtain-24484

INTERNET FREEDOM

Tajikistan and its terrible, horrible, no good, very bad internet
Eurasianet: 28 February 2019

Tajikistan’s internet is actually getting slower because of blockages, censorship and monitoring. Those who use virtual private networks to avoid these issues find the connections so slow it is hardly worth the effort.


For more on this theme:
(Global) Peter Cochrane: Governments may try to lock down the internet and AI, but freedom will always out
https://www.computing.co.uk/ctg/opinion/3071778/peter-cochrane-governments-may-try-to-lock-down-the-internet-and-ai-but-freedom-will-always-out

(South Korea) Is South Korea Sliding Toward Digital Dictatorship?

(Global) Why some countries are building ‘walls’ in the worldwide web
PRIVACY AND SECURITY

California Was on Everyone’s Mind at Congressional Data Privacy Hearings. Here’s Why
Danielle Abril – Fortune: 28 February 2019

After fighting to prevent legislation that would safeguard Americans’ online privacy, the tech industry has a newfound love for laws covering its business. Why? Because federal laws are unlikely to be as strict as individual state laws and would override those state legislatures.


For more on this theme:
(U.S.) Data security professor says it’s time to improve internet privacy laws

(GLOBAL) Do You Trust Your VPN? Are You Sure?

(THAILAND) Thailand passes internet security law decried as ‘cyber martial law’

CYBER STATECRAFT DEVELOPMENT

France’s New Offensive Cyber Doctrine
Arthur P.B. Laudrain – Lawfare: 26 February 2019

France is on the offensive when it comes to cyber security. The country released its first doctrine for offensive cyber programs in January and is establishing very clear rules about its intentions in cyberspace.

https://www.lawfareblog.com/frances-new-offensive-cyber-doctrine

For more on this theme:
(Global) The Cyberlaw Podcast: In the Cyber Adversary Olympics, It’s Russia for the Gold and North Korea (!) for the Silver

(U.S., Global) Six Big Thoughts on Global Cyber Challenges

(AUSTRALIA) Keep your friends close and your cyber-adversaries closer
https://www.policyforum.net/keep-your-friends-close-and-your-cyber-adversaries-closer/
PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

5 steps for a successful public-private cyber crime fighting partnership
Levi Gundert – GCN: 28 February 2019

When cyber crime hits, public/private partnerships are key to fixing the problem quickly and stopping its spread. This article gives five prescriptions for building optimal relationships.


For more on this theme:

(U.S.) Insider-threat competition releases a cyber wolf in its flock

(India) Bengaluru gets cyber crime research, training centre

PROTECTION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Chasing China Theft, U.S. Uncovers Bonuses for Stolen Data
Todd Shields – Bloomberg: 27 February 2019

According to U.S. prosecutors, Huawei Technologies used encrypted email and paid workers for secrets stolen from other companies.


For more on this theme:

(Global) Cyber-extortionists take aim at lucrative targets

(Middle East, Global) Why Startups Should Consider A Cyber Resilience Strategy
https://www.entrepreneur.com/article/328751

(Switzerland) Internet provider ‘not responsible’ for pirated movie sites
https://www.swissinfo.ch/eng/court-ruling_internet-provider--not-responsible--for-pirated-movie-sites/44789316
CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING

Schools must look to the future when connecting students to the internet
Oren Pinsky – World Economic Forum: 26 February 2019

While connecting students to the internet through schools is a good project in theory, it is often executed poorly and fails to account for innovation, technology upgrades and the home environment.


For more on this theme:
(Africa) African tech hubs are starting to specialize and build a budding culture of innovation

(India) GTU signs MOU with cybercrime cell

(Guyana) Disbanding of this committee has left Guyana vulnerable to cyber attacks
https://www.stabroeknews.com/2019/opinion/letters/02/28/disbanding-of-this-committee-has-left-guyana-vulnerable-to-cyber-attacks/

COMBATING TERRORISM AND CYBER CRIME

Cybercrime & Hackers ‘More Devastating’ To SMB’s Than Fire, Flood & Transit Strike Combined
Roger Aitken – Forbes: 26 February 2019

A new report says cyber attacks will be more devastating and detrimental to small and medium-size businesses in the U.S. than fire, floods and transit strikes — combined.


For more on this theme:
(Global) Add fighting cyber crime to ICANN’s work, urges Canadian Internet leader

(Global) Full DNSSEC adoption needed to repel state-sponsored DNS hijackers – ICANN
https://portswigger.net/daily-swig/full-dnssec-adoption-needed-to-repel-state-sponsored-dns-hijackers-icann

(Europe) A Sting Exclusive: “Stronger Cybersecurity for a safer EU against cybercrime and cyber threats”, by MEP Dalli
https://europeansting.com/2019/03/01/stronger-cybersecurity-for-a-safer-eu-against-cybercrime-and-cyber-threats/
INFORMATION SHARING

Nato supports collaboration on cyber security
Warwick Ashford – Computer Weekly: 22 February 2019

When discussing cyber security, a NATO representative said the concept of “one for all and all for one” as it relates to cyberspace is a “fundamentally uncontroversial” idea. All NATO members will connect to a protected information-sharing network this year as the organization looks to build greater collaboration among allies to counter increasingly dynamic cyber threats.


For more on this theme:

(U.S.) Federal threat information sharing gets a more enterprise mindset

(U.S.) NERC, Community-Owned Utilities Group Launch Information Sharing Partnership to Strengthen Grid's Cyber, Physical Security

(U.S.) CISA Makes Tech and Cyber Centerpieces of National Emergency Comms Plan

CYBER PROTECTION OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

One click from meltdown: protecting Australia's critical infrastructure
Bede Hackney – CSO: 25 February 2019

With the longest single electricity grid in the world, Australia is at high risk for a devastating attack on that critical infrastructure.


For more on this theme:

(U.S.) Congress should support efforts to further protect pipelines from cyber threats
https://thehill.com/opinion/cybersecurity/432024-congress-should-support-efforts-to-further-protect-pipelines-from-cyber

(U.S.) Cybersecurity threats to US infrastructure warrant 'moonshot' response
https://thehill.com/opinion/cybersecurity/431079-cybersecurity-threats-to-us-infrastructure-warrant-moonshot

(Europe) Attack On Critical National Infrastructure Is Imminent, Say Over Half Of Respondents To Infosecurity Europe Poll
PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

ISIS

The Islamic State is dying ... but believers in its radical ideology live on
Ben Wedeman and Kareem Khadder – CNN: 1 March 2019

ISIS still has many followers, even as its “caliphate” crumbles. Clinging to the ideas and ideals of ISIS, many remain loyal.

What the Media Won’t Tell You About ISIS
Simon Cottee – The Atlantic: 27 February 2019

The Western media overhyped ISIS’ capabilities at the same time the Western political establishment underestimated them. The truth lies somewhere between the two portrayals.

For more on this theme:
Trump declares 100% of the ISIS caliphate has been liberated, but forces on the ground say it’s not over yet

The failures of the war on ISIS – analysis
https://www.jpost.com/Middle-East/ISIS-Threat/Analysis-Everything-that-went-wrong-with-the-war-on-ISIS-581654

Has ISIS Really Been Defeated?
https://nowthisnews.com/videos/news/has-isis-really-been-defeated

World focus: ISIS is down but it is not out yet
https://www.straitstimes.com/world/middle-east/isis-is-down-but-it-is-not-out-yet

Does Islamic State Still Pose a Threat?

Do Great Nations Fight Endless Wars? Against the Islamic State, They Might

What Comes After ISIS?
https://foreignpolicy.com/2019/02/22/isiss-success-was-also-its-undoing-sdf-islamic-state/

Reporter’s Notebook: Chaos and Cacophony as IS ‘Caliphate’ Falls
TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

The Fight Against Jihadists Is Shifting to Africa
Stratfor: 28 February 2019

As the focus shifts from Syria and Iraq, the U.S. and its partners should focus on maintaining pressure on terrorist groups in Africa – the next likely epicenter of terror.

https://worldview.stratfor.com/article/fight-against-jihadists-shifting-africa

36 hours with the Taliban
CNN: February 2019

CNN chief international correspondent Clarissa Ward had unprecedented access and experience behind enemy lines as she and producer Salma Abdelaziz were embedded for 36 hours with the Taliban in Afghanistan.


For more on this theme:

Taliban and Islamic State cause majority of civilian casualties in Afghan war, UN finds

US offers $1 million reward for information on Hamza bin Laden

Reporter’s Diary: Still on the trail of Boko Haram
https://www.irinnews.org/opinion/2019/02/26/boko-haram-northeast-Nigeria-reporter-notebook

Hamas arrests leader of Shiite terror organization in Gaza – report

Lebanon’s Hezbollah slams Britain’s terrorist group listing

Taliban: Afghan Peace Talks With US Heading in ‘Right Direction’

Taliban Revive Harsh Rule In A Remote Afghan Province
https://gandhara.rferl.org/a/Afghanistan-taliban-revive-harsh-rule-in-a-remote-province/29797733.html

How a local Mozambique Islamic group became Africa’s latest terror threat

War In Chinese Boxes: Al-Shabaab Against ISIS In Somalia – Analysis
RADICALIZATION AND MESSAGING

As politicians look away, a nation feeding on social media becomes fertile ground for radicalization
Samar Halarnkar – Scroll.in: 24 February 2019
Since the terrorist attack in the Pulwama District of Kashmir, hatred and bigotry toward Muslims and Pakistan have spread like wildfire, thanks to fake news and social media.
https://scroll.in/article/914258/as-politicians-look-away-a-nation-feeding-on-social-media-becomes-fer
tile-ground-for-radicalisation

Why it's OK for young Muslims to be radical
Ali Nobil Ahmad – The Guardian: 28 February 2019
In this opinion piece, the author argues that it is OK for children to be radical, because it can be positive – radical does not have to mean terrorism.
https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/feb/28/young-muslims-britain-radical-progressive

For more on this theme:
Female terrorists at risk of re-radicalisation because of ‘lenient’ treatment, UN warns
ment-un/

Saudi Arabia strikes $10 bln China deal, talks de-radicalisation with Xi
https://www.jpost.com/Breaking-News/Saudi-Arabia-strikes-10-bln-China-deal-talks-de-radicalisation-
with-Xi-581472

Budget 2019 debate: ‘Stark increase’ in number of radicalised Singaporeans detected since 2015
tected-since-2015-101807735.html

Haji to push for policies to reintegrate Shabaab returnees
https://www.nation.co.ke/counties/Haji-to-push-for-policies-to-protect-Shabaab-returnees/1107872-
5003866-3a1gmzv/index.html

Will the ban on Jamaat-e-Islami prevent radicalisation of youth in Jammu and Kashmir?
https://www.ibtimes.co.in/will-ban-jamaat-e-islami-prevent-radicalisation-youth-jammu-kash
mir-792934

De-radicalization and the Defeat of Isis: Radicalization Will Not Disappear by Itself
http://www.ipsnews.net/2019/02/de-radicalization-defeat-isis-radicalization-will-not-disappear/

What led to Shamima Begum’s radicalization
http://www.arabnews.com/node/1456501

Warning issued over radicalized Muslim prison chaplains
https://www.wnd.com/2019/02/warning-issued-over-radicalized-muslim-prison-chaplains/
FOREIGN FIGHTERS

Don’t Strip ISIS Fighters of Citizenship
Graeme Wood – The Atlantic: 25 February 2019

Shamima Begum and Hoda Muthana didn’t become radicalized in a vacuum. They are products of their environments as well. While it is easy to disown citizens in the United Kingdom, in the U.S. it takes a federal court action to strip someone of citizenship.


Female Isis members underestimated by security services because of jihadi bride stereotypes, UN warns
Lizzie Dearden – The Independent: 28 February 2019

Researchers are warning that female ISIS members still pose a threat, despite the terror group having lost its territory. The United Nations Security Council’s Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate said the women need to be watched closely because they present an “underestimated” risk compared to men.


For more on this theme:

The difficult diplomacy involved in returning former ISIS fighters and their families

Bring Hoda Muthana and other ISIS members home — but for trial

https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/nishitajha/isis-yazidi-shamima-begum-hoda-muthana

The ISIS Brides Should Not Live among Us

Usable evidence of ISIS crimes hinders Canada’s pursuit of justice
http://www.rudaw.net/english/middleeast/syria/28022019

Islamic State’s caliphate is all but finished, but its online presence endures

Belgium to repatriate children of Isis, but leave mothers in Syria

Trump administration signals ISIS foreign fighters could be sent to Guantanamo Bay
https://6abc.com/trump-administration-signals-isis-foreign-fighters-could-be-sent-to-guantanamo-bay/5150766/