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COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

Slovak President Asks Corruption Fighter to Form New Government
Radoslav Tomek – Bloomberg: 4 March 2020

An election win for an anti-corruption party in Slovakia signifies a popular shift toward making honesty and merit the rule in governance.


Bribery, corruption on the rise in PH – report
Melissa Luz Lopez – CNN: 3 March 2020

Bribery and corruption in the Philippines are on the rise, according to a global survey. Companies are saying they’ve lost millions of pesos because of fraud.

Full Report:

For more on this theme:
Pompeo talks energy and corruption in Africa

Why we can’t afford to give up fight against corruption
https://www.nation.co.ke/oped/opinion/We-can-t-afford-to-give-up-fight-against-corruption/440808-5480156-tt8sjv/index.html

India Failing To Make Progress In Its Campaign Against Corruption

A Life Covering Corruption, Conflict, and Contemporary Politics in Southeast Asia

Corruption Scandal Shakes Bosnia’s Largest Political Party
https://balkaninsight.com/2020/03/03/corruption-scandal-shakes-bosnias-largest-political-party/

Mexicans eager to see Pena Nieto probed for corruption: poll

Networks of impunity: Corruption and European foreign policy

US accuses Mexican ex-governor of corruption, cartel bribes
https://apnews.com/331c744fba9f1c1df98a29ed4fb7b6a2
**DRUG TRAFFICKING**

*Children coerced into drug trafficking face cycle of exploitation due to failings in system, warns slavery tsar*

*May Bulman – The Independent: 2 March 2020*

Dame Sara Thornton, the United Kingdom’s Independent Anti-Slavery commissioner, is concerned about the U.K.’s continuing rise in gangs and the skyrocketing number of child slavery cases.


**Fentanyl Trade Fuels Cartel Battle in Central Mexico**

*Eimhin O’Reilly – InSight Crime: 2 March 2020*

With five gangs vying for control of the fentanyl trade in Mexico’s Zacatecas state, it is likely that this type of battle is going on across more of Mexico. The state’s central location and proximity to the U.S. border states makes it a likely transit hub to the U.S.


For more on this theme:

**Meth drug trade is making a comeback according to DEA**
https://www.fox2detroit.com/video/657474

**Fentanyl-laced meth from Mexico poses new deadly threat, DEA says**

**Methamphetamine use and its impact on violence laid bare in world-first study**

**Colombia coca eradication hampered by landmines and protests, police say**

**Kabul killings highlight rising drug addiction in Afghanistan**

**How Gmail helped bust WNY’s ‘most prolific drug trafficking’ ring**
https://buffalonews.com/2020/03/05/inside-the-investigation-into-one-of-buffalos-biggest-drug-trafficking-rings/

**Sri Lanka Police, Navy and Army intensify fight against drug smuggling**
http://www.colombopage.com/archive_20A/Feb29_1582988912CH.php

**Should Mexico revive the idea of amnesty for criminals?**
https://www.brookings.edu/blog/order-from-chaos/2020/03/02/should-mexico-revive-the-idea-of-amnesty-for-criminals/
TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

Coronavirus outbreak may spur Southeast Asian action on wildlife trafficking
Imelda Abano – Mongabay: 4 March 2020
The coronavirus has prompted China to shut down its illegal wildlife trade markets and might prompt the rest of Southeast Asia to do the same.

How Nepal Is Protecting Its Wildlife
Kamal Dev Bhattarai and Sujata Karki – The Diplomat: 3 March 2020
Nepal makes progress in wildlife conservation, but it risks becoming a transit hub.
https://thediplomat.com/2020/03/how-nepal-is-protecting-its-wildlife/

For more on this theme:
Nigeria Loses Billions Of Dollars Annually To Illegal Tree Felling

Illegal mining threatens formalised industry activities
https://miningreview.com/southern-africa/illegal-mining-threatens-formalised-industry-activities/

Ecuador and Peru move forward on analysis of illegal mining

Liberia: Illegal Mining Polluting Water in Grand Cape Mount County

An ancient empire hiding in plain sight, and the billion-dollar cost of illegal fishing

Tracing seafood from bait to plate will sink illegal fishing
https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/02/seafood-bait-to-plate-illegal-fishing-tuna/

Illicit trade in marine fish catch and its effects on ecosystems and people worldwide
https://advances.sciencemag.org/content/6/9/eaaz3801

Special Report: Sleeping Beauty — How suspect gold reached top brands
https://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-gold-peru-swiss-specialreport/special-report-sleeping-beauty-how-suspect-gold-reached-top-brands-idUKKBN20T0U0

Illicit wildlife products ‘slipping through the net’

Malaysia and Southeast Asia at the heart of massive wildlife trade
HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND IRREGULAR MIGRATION

How Latin America Can Find Opportunity in Its Migration Challenge
Isabel de Saint Malo de Alvarado – Americas Quarterly: 3 March 2020
Panama’s former vice president reflects on the migration flows reshaping the region.
https://www.americasquarterly.org/content/migration-latin-america-view-panama

The Security Implications of Human Trafficking
Council on Foreign Relations: 3 March 2020
Panelists discuss how human trafficking fuels conflict, drives displacement and undercuts the ability of international institutions to promote stability.
https://www.cfr.org/event/security-implications-human-trafficking

For more on this theme:

How the coronavirus outbreak could hit refugees and migrants
https://www.thenewhumanitarian.org/news/2020/02/27/Coronavirus-Iran-refugees-IDPs-Italy-Europe-disease

‘Liberia Becoming Exit Point for Illegal Migrants’

Asylum applications in the EU increase by 13% in 2019

Tough border control awaits migrants attempting to reach EU from Bosnia

European Union partnership with AICS, UNDP and UNICEF: For better access to services in Libya
https://reliefweb.int/report/libya/european-union-partnership-aics-undp-and-unicef-better-access-services-libya

Human Trafficking, the Financial Industry, and Corporate Social Responsibility

Human trafficking report ‘ready’

Indonesia’s Laws Ineffective against Human Trafficking
https://www.ipsnews.net/2020/03/indonesias-laws-ineffective-human-trafficking/

Leading the fight against human trafficking

Govt steps up efforts to combat human trafficking
INTERNET GOVERNANCE

A Cyberspace ‘FIFA’ to Set Rules of the Game? UN States Disagree at Second Meeting
Josh Gold – Council on Foreign Relations: 2 March 2020

Though agreements were reached during the second formal meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group on international cyber security, those present still were unable to agree on whether new norms or mechanisms are needed in cyberspace.


For more on this theme:

(Global) Tech Experts Are Pessimistic About Their Industry

(Global) Cyberspace needs to be regulated
https://www.newtimes.co.rw/opinions/cyberspace-needs-be-regulated

(Ethiopia) Internet Society announces launch of new chapter in Ethiopia, holds first ever internet dev’t conference

INTERNET FREEDOM

China Just Outlawed Clickbait and Sensationalist Headlines
David Gilbert – Vice: 3 March 2020

China’s controls on the “online information content ecosystem” bring heightened concern about freedom of speech.


For more on this theme:

(Kashmir) Kashmir gets broadband internet back

(China) Report says China internet firms censored coronavirus terms, criticism early in outbreak

(Pakistan) Internet giants threaten Pakistan exodus over censorship rules
PRIVACY AND SECURITY

We should treat data as a natural resource. Here’s why
Antonio Neri – World Economic Forum: 2 March 2020

With more data being generated every second, it is crucial that we as a global society determine how to best use, store and analyze this data, according to the World Economic Forum.

For more on this theme:
(Global) The Future Of Values In Cyber Security Strategies – Analysis
(Canada, Global) Is Your Data Being Collected? These Signs Will Tell You Where
https://www.wired.com/story/data-collected-signs-will-tell-where/
(India, Global) Data Bill: Global trade bodies raise privacy concerns

CYBER STATECRAFT DEVELOPMENT

Tech Giants Offer Road Map to EU’s Digital Future
John Eggerton – Multichannel News: 2 March 2020

The Information Technology Industry Council has weighed in with its policy recommendations for a European Tech Agenda.

For more on this theme:
(Pakistan) Experts discuss Pakistan’s digital future
(Zimbabwe) Zim needs to adopt a rights-based approach in regulation of internet
https://apnews.com/00e66adc5de715a9ed2e155833bd9116

CYBER PROTECTION OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

U.S. Critical Infrastructure Victim of Ransomware Attack
Byron Mühlberg – CPO Magazine: 5 March 2020

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security disclosed a disruptive cyber attack on a U.S. energy facility, raising new concerns about protections for energy providers.


For more on this theme:
(U.S., Ukraine) US to Give Ukraine $8m for Cybersecurity
(U.S., Global) Are Hackers Targeting Critical Infrastructure More Often?
(U.S.) VA Official Stresses Increased Cyber Threats to Connected Medical Devices
https://www.governmentciomedia.com/va-official-stresses-increased-cyber-threats-connected-medical-devices

COMBATING TERRORISM AND CYBER CRIME

FBI chief wants to ‘burn down’ cyber criminals’ infrastructure
Andrew Martinez – The Boston Herald: 4 March 2020

Christopher Wray, director of the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation, spoke at Boston’s annual Cyber Security Conference and told the audience, “We don’t just want to keep individual cyber criminals at bay, we want to burn down their infrastructure.”


For more on this theme:
(Global) The Cybercrime Pandemic Keeps Spreading
(The Netherlands) Less traditional crime, more cybercrime
(Latin America) A profile of cybercrime in Latin America
https://www.idgconnect.com/analysis-review/1504354/profile-cybercrime-latin-america
NOTEWORTHY PODCASTS

**Cyber Security Today**  
*Howard Solomon – IT World Canada: 28 February 2020*

This episode includes a security conference offering advice, a health care industry warning and a macro phishing alert.


*For more on this theme:*

**Global** [The Cyber Wire Daily Podcast – Ep 1036](https://thecyberwire.com/podcasts/daily-podcast/1036/notes)

**Global** [Don't go looking for morality here](https://thecyberwire.com/podcasts/hacking-humans/88/notes)


TRAINING AND EXERCISES

**The largest cyber exercise you’ve never heard of**  
*Mark Pomerleau – Fifth Domain: 21 February 2020*

The United States military aims to better train defensive hunters; improve defensive tactics, techniques and procedures; and develop defensive cyber tradecraft.


*For more on this theme:*

**U.S.** [U. S. Army Corps Hosts Cybersecurity Training Exercise](https://douglascountyherald.com/2020/03/u-s-army-corps-hosts-cybersecurity-training-exercise/)


**Thailand, Global** [Cobra Gold 20: Cyber operators from six nations join together during second annual Cyber FTX](https://www.dvidshub.net/news/364600/cobra-gold-20-cyber-operators-six-nations-join-together-during-second-annual-cyber-ftx)
PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

ISIS AND FOREIGN FIGHTERS

‘Daesh’s digital space strategy makes it more threatening than Al-Qaeda’
Syed Shayan Ahmed – Samaa: 22 February 2020

According to one researcher’s finding, ISIS is far more threatening online because of its updated and capable media structure and its extensive use of newer technologies and social media platforms.


Should Australian Islamic State wives and their children held in Syria be brought home?
Emi Berry – UNSW Sydney: 3 March 2020

Dr. Anthony Billingsley, lecturer of international relations for the University of New South Wales School of Social Sciences, addresses the question of whether Australian ISIS wives and their children should be brought home from Syria.


For more on this theme:

Islamic State Stepping Up Attacks in Mozambique
https://www.voanews.com/extremism-watch/islamic-state-stepping-attacks-mozambique

‘The ISIS Peril – The World’s Most Feared Terror Group and its Shadow on South Asia’
review: The long reach of ISIS

Islamic State using riot photo to further its cause: US agency

U.N. Sanctions International Branches of ISIS
https://brief.kharon.comupdates/un-sanctions-international-branches-of-isis/

Five foreigners among dozens of latest fighters to join ISIS affiliate in Somalia

Hundreds of Indonesian Former IS Members, Families Could Become Stateless

Iraq sends 82 Children with ISIS affiliation back to Azerbaijan
https://www.kurdistan24.net/en/news/a038f32d-dfd7-42d4-93de-0f2b1a1dc39
Al-Shabaab changes tack, targets jobless youths in Nyeri slums
Nicholas Komu – Daily Nation: 1 March 2020

Al-Shabaab is taking advantage of jobless youth and criminals, targeting them with the promise of an escape from poverty.


How Terrorists Use the Internet for Weapons and Component Procurement
Homeland Security Today: 2 March 2020

Using the internet to procure materials for terrorist attacks is not new, but it is becoming more common. This can make it more difficult for law enforcement to detect, unless financial intelligence is exploited to determine the terrorists’ level of preparation for a pending attack.


For more on this theme:
How Boko Haram terrorists hunt military, security personnel in Yobe

Hamas torn between long-term calm, popular resistance
https://www.ynetnews.com/article/SyrT5vW4U

Telegram’s Cryptocurrency Could Have a Terrorism Problem
https://www.justsecurity.org/68994/telegrams-cryptocurrency-could-have-a-terrorism-problem/

Brit forces in huge counter-terror mission against Islamic State in West Africa
https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/brit-forces-huge-counter-terror-21611655

U.S.-Taliban Peace Deal: What to Know
https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/us-taliban-peace-deal-agreement-afghanistan-war

Museveni agrees to smoke out Rwandan ‘terrorists’ on Ugandan soil
https://issafrica.org/iss-today/museveni-agrees-to-smoke-out-rwandan-terrorists-on-ugandan-soil

Clashes break out in Somalia, slowing fight against al Qaeda-linked insurgents

Al-Shabaab tells Christians to leave northeastern Kenya

Tackling Boko Haram From Its Root
http://www.thetidenewsonline.com/2020/03/06/tackling-boko-haram-from-its-root/

Turkey’s Operation “Spring Shield” delivers blow to Hezbollah
RADICALIZATION AND MESSAGING

**Violent extremism prevention ‘only effective’ if human rights are enshrined**  
*United Nations News: 4 March 2020*

“Prevention is an important and necessary tool but it will only be effective when it is practised in a way that protects and affirms rights,” said Fionnuala Ní Aoláin, United Nations special rapporteur about the protection and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism.  

**Over 600 former Boko Haram fighters ready to be reunited with their families**  
*Molly Kilete – The Sun: 5 March 2020*

After completing a government-sponsored deradicalization program, 606 former Boko Haram fighters are set to be released back into society.  

*For more on this theme:*

**Paul Stott on Islamist Radicalization in the United Kingdom**  
https://www.meforum.org/60534/paul-stott-on-islamist-radicalization-in-the-uk

**How the DILG plans to prevent, counter violent extremism**  
https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2020/03/05/1998328/how-dilg-plans-prevent-counter-violent-extremism

**Extremism Building to the 'Doorstep of Another 9/11,' DHS Official Tells**  
*Anti-Semitism Hearing*  

**Violent Extreme-Right Movement Attracts New Generation of Russian Youth**  

**Violence may lead to radicalisation: Imran Khan**  
WHITE NATIONALIST TERRORISM

Commentary: Why Asia may not be immune to far-right terrorism
Amresh Gunasingham and Kyler Ong – Channel News Asia: 27 February 2020

White supremacist groups are organizing more effectively and seek to forge links with other violent movements elsewhere, including in Asia, say Amresh Gunasingham and Kyler Ong. https://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/commentary/far-right-terrorism-could-come-to-asia-12472250

For more on this theme:
Right-Wing Extremism in Australia
To defeat far-right terrorism, we must counter the ideas behind it
https://www.newstatesman.com/world/europe/2020/02/defeat-far-right-terrorism-we-must-counter-ideas-behind-it
Who are the neo-Nazi groups threatening Australia’s security?
FBI needs to do more to fight domestic extremist threats, watchdog says
What I Learned From Scanning the Brains of Potential Terrorists
https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/02/opinion/domestic-terrorism-jihadists.html

COUNTERTERRORISM STRATEGIES

Sahel militaries need better governance to face the terror threat
Hassane Koné – Institute for Strategic Studies: 26 February 2020

Why are the military actions in the Sahel failing? If countries are spending massive portions of their budgets on defense, how are terrorists continuing these successful attacks? https://issafrica.org/iss-today/sahel-militaries-need-better-governance-to-face-the-terror-threat

For more on this theme:
What’s in the Philippines’ New Anti-Terrorism Act?
UK venues could face legal duty to provide protection from terrorism
https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2020/feb/24/uk-venues-could-face-legal-duty-to-provide-protection-from-terrorism
Counterterrorism: A woman’s game
https://www.lowyinstitute.org/the-interpreter/women-counterterrorism