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COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

New Chinese agency could undercut other anti-corruption efforts
Dimitar Gueorguiev and Jonathan Stromseth – Nikkei Asian Review: 6 March 2018
The authors argue that Beijing’s plan to expand and consolidate China’s anti-corruption system highlights an underlying tension between two broad approaches to reducing and deterring corruption and to governance reform generally.

Will Blockchain Disrupt Government Corruption?
Carlos Santiso – Stanford Social Innovation Review: 5 March 2018
One of the advantages of blockchain technology is the transparency it affords. It may not solve every problem, but when properly employed it can help curtail corruption and rebuild faith in governments.
https://ssir.org/articles/entry/will_blockchain_disrupt_government_corruption

For more on this theme:
Why corruption is not ending in India

Seeking IMF Bailout, Debt-Laden Congo Steps Up War on Corruption

Why Putin’s Corruption Crackdown May Be a Pre-Election Show
http://www.newsweek.com/putin-corruption-crackdown-pre-election-show-830704

NAB holds seminar on ‘Role of Youth in War against Corruption and Accountability for All’

Centre launches anti-corruption toll-free line

Xi Jinping’s New Watchdog
https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/china/2018-03-06/xi-jinpings-new-watchdog

Chayes links extremism to corruption
https://yaledailynews.com/blog/2018/03/06/chayes-links-extremism-to-corruption/

Can a New President Really Solve South Africa’s Corruption Problem?

‘Country of thieves’ wrestles with corruption
DRUG TRAFFICKING

The Coming Decline of the Employment Drug Test
Rebecca Greenfield and Jennifer Kaplan – Bloomberg: 5 March 2018

Employers are struggling to hire workers in the tightening U.S. job market. Because of marijuana legalization, more than 1 in 5 American adults can eat, drink, smoke or vape as they please. The result is a decline in the requirement that employees pass a drug test.


UK Cops Tried ‘DDoS-Style’ Tactics on Drug Dealers’ Phones
Joseph Cox – Motherboard: 6 March 2018

Police in the United Kingdom used distributed denial of service (DDoS) attacks to disrupt service on suspected drug dealers’ phones in cases where they couldn’t prosecute but were looking to interfere with the drug trade.


For more on this theme:
International Reports Confirm: Cannabis Infrastructure Used for Cocaine Trafficking
https://exit.al/en/2018/03/06/international-reports-confirm-cannabis-infrastructure-used-for-cocaine-trafficking/

Duterte has declared that he was beyond the jurisdiction of the ICC
https://news.mb.com.ph/2018/03/06/duterte-has-declared-that-he-was-beyond-the-jurisdiction-of-the-icc/

What Is the Mexican Cartels’ Strategy for Post-FARC Colombia?

How does resolving cannabis problems differ from problems with alcohol or other drugs?
https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2018/03/180305160204.htm

Banning drug offenders from accessing public housing sets ‘troubling precedent’

A Clean, Well-Lit Place to Smoke Rocks: North America’s First Supervised Inhalation Site Opens

UK is world’s largest producer of legal cannabis
https://news.sky.com/story/uk-is-worlds-largest-producer-of-legal-cannabis-11278131

Operation Bayonet: Inside the Sting That Hijacked an Entire Dark Web Drug Market
https://www.wired.com/story/hansa-dutch-police-sting-operation/

The other silence breakers: women in the war on drugs
https://www.opendemocracy.net/kasia-malinowska-bethany-medley/other-silence-breakers-women-in-war-on-drugs

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TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

Ground-breaking study highlights scale of Africa-Asia wildlife trade
TRAFFIC: 5 March 2018

The demand for exotic wildlife in Asia is driving up the legal trade and export of rare African animals — but at a cost. A new study by TRAFFIC, a nongovernmental organization focused on trade in wild animals and plants, shows that Asian imports of exotic African wildlife, ranging from rare reptiles to birds, have increased nearly tenfold since 2006.

Corruption fueling deforestation in Cambodia
Kris Janssens – Deutsche Welle: 5 March 2018

Cambodia’s deforestation rate is among the worst in the world. It’s largely due to the Army’s participation in the billion-dollar black market for timber, and impunity for the murderers of environmental activists.

For more on this theme:
EU should stop illegal logging by stepping up enforcement of Timber Regulation

Corrupt Police in Paraguay See Opportunity in Illegal Logging

€19bn of illegal fishing represents 15% of global catch

Points of entry targeted to prevent wildlife crime
http://www.defenceweb.co.za/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=50923&catid=87&Itemid=188

Illegal Gold Mining Boom Threatens Cocoa Farmers (And Your Chocolate)

The Inside Story of Gold Mining

The South Atlantic is a Scrum of the World’s Illegal Fishing Vessels
https://international.thenewslens.com/article/91191

Rhino horn demand reduction project comes to a close, looks to the future
HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND IRREGULAR MIGRATION

Training for judges on compensation for victims of human trafficking
Council of Europe: 6 March 2018
The Council of Europe provided training for judges in Serbia on compensation for victims of human trafficking in civil and criminal cases.

Libya: migrants and refugees out by plane and in by boat
European Council on Refugees and Exiles: 2 March 2018
The European Union is launching three new programs aimed at protecting migrants and refugees and hastening their return home and reintegration.

For more on this theme:
Farm training the key to helping Laos human trafficking survivors

Meet the Sex Workers Leading the Fight Against Human Trafficking and Child Marriage

The Trauma of Child Trafficking, Hidden in Plain Sight

Weak prosecution let human smugglers off the hook

Italy migrants fear uncertain future after election

Migration policies can amount to ill-treatment and torture, UN rights expert warns

Senate Urges Strong Measures to Combat Illegal Migration, Human Trafficking
https://leadership.ng/2018/03/02/senate-urges-strong-measures-combat-illegal-migration-human-trafficking/

Are doctors the key to cracking down on human trafficking? A local campaign says yes
http://wric.com/2018/03/05/are-doctors-the-key-to-cracking-down-on-human-trafficking-a-local-campaign-says-yes/
PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

INTERNET GOVERNANCE

The Decentralized Internet Is Here, With Some Glitches
Tom Simonite – Wired: 5 March 2018

Big corporations crush the competition and disregard user privacy, according to the proponents of a decentralized internet. They hope to restore the internet to what it was meant to be — a free and open exchange of ideas and information.
https://www.wired.com/story/the-decentralized-internet-is-here-with-some-glitches/

For more on this theme:

(Global) iPolitics Q & A: The Internet on the brink
https://ipolitics.ca/article/ipolitics-q-internet-brink/

(Africa) Q&A: How e-governance can change Africa

INTERNET FREEDOM

China Presses Its Internet Censorship Efforts Across the Globe

China is expanding its censorship efforts beyond its great firewall with policies that monitor what people outside China are saying about the country. It is also censoring external companies that conduct business with China.

For more on this theme:

(South Africa) Parliament has passed the ‘internet censorship’ bill – here’s what it means for you

(Global) No one wants to build a “feel good” internet
https://techcrunch.com/2018/03/03/no-one-wants-to-build-a-feel-good-internet/

(Sri Lanka) Sri Lanka cuts off access to social networks to curb violence (updated)
PRIVACY AND SECURITY

Researchers create an AI to help us make sense of privacy policies
Carnegie Mellon University: 1 March 2018

Taking aim at the confusing privacy policies posted on websites, researchers at Carnegie Mellon University launched an interactive website to help users understand how their personal information is being gathered and used by companies.


For more on this theme:

(U.S.) Do we really need a new constitutional amendment to protect privacy online?
http://thehill.com/opinion/cybersecurity/376259-do-we-really-need-a-new-constitutional-amendment-to-protect-internet

(Global) Here are the ‘sinister’ dangers that could arise from companies collecting our data, according to a computer scientist

(U.S.) Public Sector Explores How Artificial Intelligence Might Help with Enhancing Cyber Security Efforts

CYBER STATECRAFT DEVELOPMENT

China's Cyber Projection
Nicholas Lyall – Sri Lanka Guardian: 25 February 2018

China just released a policy document outlining its thinking on cyberspace. The document promotes civil-military cooperation and integration for cyber security.

https://www.slguardian.org/chinas-cyber-projection/

For more on this theme:

(Global) Punish countries that launch cyber attacks, global expert Chris Painter says

(Global) The world badly needs a cyber-warfare truce – what are the chances?

(North Korea, Global) North Korea is a bigger cyber-attack threat than Russia, says expert
PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

Who's In Control? Balance and Power of Cyber Partnership
Jason Healey – The Cipher Brief: 8 March 2018

How do governments and businesses manage the balance of power in public/private partnerships, and what is the level of control for each side that is most appropriate?
https://www.thecipherbrief.com/column_article/whos-control-balance-power-cyber-partnership

For more on this theme:
(U.S.) FirstNet Public-Private Partnership is Turning 1, Drives Much-Needed Competition, Coverage and Innovation for Public Safety

(Global) From planning to partnerships: What’s driving smart city initiatives around the world
https://www.greenbiz.com/article/planning-partnerships-whats-driving-smart-city-initiatives-around-world

(Canada) Canadian sovereignty depends on public-private cybercollaboration

PROTECTION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

The Iranian Cyber-threat
Bradley Barth – SC Magazine: 6 March 2018

To forget Iran’s cyber hacking abilities among the headlines of other major state actors would be a mistake. This article looks at which groups under Iranian control conduct operations and against whom.
https://www.scmagazineuk.com/the-iranian-cyber-threat/article/748876/

For more on this theme:
(Germany) The Breach from the East
http://www.spiegel.de/international/germany/cyber-espionage-likely-from-russia-targets-german-government-a-1196520.html

(China, Africa) African Union Bugged by China: Cyber Espionage as Evidence of Strategic Shifts
https://www.cfr.org/blog/african-union-bugged-china-cyber-espionage-evidence-strategic-shifts
CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING

**Q&A: How digitally connecting a continent could transform Africa**
Gloria Pallares – Devex: 5 March 2018

Building a single digital market across Africa is a lofty goal, but it is one that Smart Africa strives toward for the betterment of the continent.


*For more on this theme:*

(Egypt) **Egypt: China-backed factory emerges from US$30m fibre cable project**

(India) **On the digital highway**
http://www.thehindu.com/education/on-the-digital-highway/article22917060.ece

(Singapore) **S$145m push to equip S'poreans with more digital skills**
https://www.todayonline.com/singapore/s145m-push-equip-sproeans-more-digital-skills

COMBATING TERRORISM AND CYBER CRIME

**Kaspersky offers hackers $100,000 for spotting bugs**
Dale Walker – ITPro: 7 March 2018

Internet security firm Kaspersky is expanding the bug bounty program it began in 2016 and runs with platform provider HackerOne. The program initially promised up to $50,000 in rewards for hackers who uncover critical vulnerabilities in its products. The firm has upped the top prize to $100,000.

http://www.itpro.co.uk/antivirus/30085/kaspersky-offers-hackers-100000-for-spotting-bugs

*For more on this theme:*

(Global) **Global Cyber Crime Hits $600 Billion–Gets Its Own aaS Category**

(Europe, Global) **Dutch Intel Agency: Volume, Complexity of Cyberattacks Rises**

(U.S.) **Digital Transformation: Using Innovation to Combat the Cyber Threat**
INFORMATION SHARING

Protection from cyber attacks ‘critical’ as UAE Government prepares to share data
Caline Malek – The National: 8 March 2018

Sharing information is only worthwhile if that data can be protected within the circles where it is shared. The UAE and the EU are looking heavily at policies to ensure this happens.


For more on this theme:

(U.S.) DHS Funds Cyber Data Research

(U.S.) U.S. Hasn't Shared Enough About Cyber Risks, Official Says

(U.S.) Senate committee approves bill reorganizing Homeland Security’s cyber office

CYBER PROTECTION OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

GAO Snaps at Critical Infrastructure Protection Ambiguity
MerTalk: 7 March 2018

The U.S. Government Accountability Office published a report outlining the progress the federal government, industry and their affiliates have made in protecting critical infrastructure. They all have faced challenges and have quite a way to go, according to the report.


For more on this theme:

(Latin America and Caribbean) The role that regions can and should play in critical infrastructure protection

(U.S.) Playing Defence - Nuclear Posture Review allows nuclear response to cyber

(U.S.) New Partners Join Charter of Trust to Protect Critical Infrastructure
PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

ISIS

**With Caliphate Gone, What's Next for Islamic State?**
Caroline Alexander – Bloomberg: 9 March 2018

Now that its self-declared caliphate is in ruins, ISIS is likely to return to guerrilla tactics and inspired attacks. But where does the organization stand now that 98 percent of the territory it once occupied is gone?


**How to Prevent ISIS From 'Bouncing Back'**
Meira Svirsky – Clarion Project: 5 March 2018

Military experts believe it would be a mistake for the coalition to let up on ISIS now. It is important to maintain pressure on the group until it no longer has the power to rise again.

https://clarionproject.org/prevent-isis-bouncing-back/

*For more on this theme:

Islamic State group calls on Muslims to immigrate to Afghanistan

ISIS Leader Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi's Sister Sentenced to Death in Iraq

The Establishment of ISIS in Syria in the Lower Euphrates Valley

Philippine military identifies new leader of ISIS in South-east Asia

Ex-CIA chief warns ISIS could send chemical weapon “recipe” to followers in U.S.

What's next for ISIS?
https://dailytimes.com.pk/211890/whats-next-for-isis/

The cyber caliphate

Inside Syria: With its enemies diverted or fighting each other, Isis is making a swift and deadly comeback

What's Behind ISIS' Recent Video Use of Jihadists with Disabilities
https://www.hstoday.us/subject-matter-areas/terrorism-study/whats-behind-isis-recent-video-use-jihadists-disabilities/
TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

Al-Qaeda’s Resurrection
Bruce Hoffman – Council on Foreign Relations: 6 March 2018
With the demise of the Islamic State, a revived al-Qaida and its affiliates should now be considered the world’s top terrorist threat.
https://www.cfr.org/expert-brief/al-qaedas-resurrection

Al Qaeda Has A Women’s Magazine Filled With Roses, Cartoons, And Great Advice Like ‘Don’t Nag Your Husband’
Paul Szoldra – Task & Purpose: 5 March 2018
In December 2017, al-Qaida launched a female-focused magazine that gives advice on home, family and dealing with husbands.

For more on this theme:
How terrorists raise money to hit targets

Al Qaeda Resurrects from the Ruins of ISIS

Is Boko Haram the new ISIS?
https://themarketmogul.com/boko-haram-nigeria/

Boko Haram has kidnapped more girls. Here’s what we know.

How al Shabaab prey on starving Somali villages for food, cash and children
https://www.the-star.co.ke/news/2018/03/08/how-al-shabaab-prey-on-starving-somali-villages-for-food-cash-and_c1726939

Somalia leader plans talks with Shabaab, says US commander

Does Hamas have the courage to admit failure?
RADICALIZATION AND MESSAGING

Cubs of the Caliphate: rehabilitating Islamic State’s child fighters
Raya Jalabi – Reuters: 8 March 2018

Children rescued from ISIS fanatics who brainwashed them into committing atrocities are being “deradicalized” in an Iraq camp. Part of their treatment includes talking through their experiences and drawing them on paper. But some of the stories and pictures are horrifying — they deal with rape, murders and vicious combat.

ISIS suspect brainwashes young girls for militancy through social media in Pakistan
Xinhua: 8 March 2017

A former ISIS fighter said he recruited young girls on social media and brainwashed them into joining the group.
http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2018-03/08/c_137025312.htm

For more on this theme:
Hate groups using similar online recruiting methods as ISIS, experts say

Pentagon says media ‘complicit’ by posting ISIS ambush video
https://www.politico.com/story/2018/03/05/pentagon-media-isis-ambush-video-730066

FOREIGN FIGHTERS

Indonesia lacks legislation to prosecute Islamic State fighters returning from conflict, expert says
Farid M. Ibrahim – Australian Broadcasting Corp. News: 7 March 2018

Indonesia lacks the laws to prosecute returning ISIS foreign fighters, according to Dr. Solahudin, a researcher at the Centre for Terrorism and Conflict at the University of Indonesia.

For more on this theme:
The Retreat of Islamic State Militants – A Distress Signal and Wake Up Call
https://www.ict.org.il/Article/2154/The_Retreat_of_Islamic_State_Militants#gsc.tab=0

Broken ISIS Recruits Return Home
http://www.worldaffairsjournal.org/blog/michael-j-totten/broken-isis-recruits-return-home

SOUTHCOM commander: More than 100 ISIS fighters recruited from Trinidad-Tobago
COUNTERTERRORISM STRATEGIES

Persistent ISIS Sinai Threat Drives Israel-Egypt Cooperation
Bennett Seftel – The Cipher Brief: 4 March 2018

Facing a common enemy, Egypt and Israel have expanded their security cooperation to deal with the threat posed by ISIS on the Sinai Peninsula.


For more on this theme:

Global Coalition needs to change tactics in fight against IS after ‘turning point’ in 2017

Israel and Australia counterterrorism information sharing

Fight against Islamic State evolves following battlefield wins
https://www.rappler.com/world/regions/middle-east/197786-fight-against-islamic-state-evolves

Strategic Progress Remains Elusive in America’s Expanded Air Campaign Against Al-Shabaab