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COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

Tackle corruption for zero hunger
Transparency International: 11 April 2019
If the world produces enough food for everyone on the planet, why do people go hungry? One answer is the plague of corruption.
https://voices.transparency.org/tackle-corruption-for-zero-hunger-c06ae5ffe7e

Corruption in Venezuela has created a cocaine superhighway to the US
Nick Paton Walsh, Natalie Gallón and Diana Castrillon – CNN: 17 April 2019
Cocaine trafficking into the U.S. from Venezuela is at an all-time high. As the country falls into chaos, its own military and political leaders are facilitating the flow of the illicit drug.

For more on this theme:
Social Auditing is effective Anti-Corruption Mechanism – NCCE

Ukraine: One of the World’s Most Corrupt Countries?
https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/ukraine-one-world%E2%80%99s-most-corrupt-countries-49712

Kuwait ofﬁcial in Iraq: Corruption, weak security hinder reconstruction

Tackling Corruption in Government

What Najib Razak’s Corruption Trial Means for Malaysia
https://thewire.in/world/what-najib-razaks-corruption-trial-means-for-malaysia

Ukraine launches long-awaited anti-corruption court

Netanyahu Reelected: Everything You Need to Know About the Prime Minister’s Corruption Scandals

IMF Puts Renewed Focus on Corruption

Coalition’s proposed anti-corruption body flawed and weak, police veteran warns
DRUG TRAFFICKING

A Top Dark Web Drug Ring Goes Down—Thanks to ATM Withdrawals
Brian Barrett – Wired: 17 April 2019

Three New Jersey men were arrested for setting up a virtual storefront in a hidden corner of the internet that sold illicit drugs. The darknet drug lords are charged with laundering $2.3 million in bitcoin.

https://www.wired.com/story/sinmed-dark-web-manhattan-district-attorney-atm-withdrawals/

One Doctor’s Answer to Drug Deaths: Opioid Vending Machines
Issie Lapowsky – Wired: 17 April 2019

A doctor in Canada thinks a high-tech opioid vending machine stocked with safe and clean pills can reduce the number of deaths caused by tainted opioids.


For more on this theme:

Myanmar and Bangladesh cooperation to combat illegal drug trade and terrorism

New Zealand’s organised crime groups becoming more sophisticated, warns gang expert

The Truth About Drug Dealers Lacing Cocaine with Fentanyl

Fariña: Spain’s Original Cocaine Cowboys
https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/democraciaabierta/fari%27na-spains-original-cocaine-cowboys/

Marijuana Testing of Job Applicants Is Barred by City in Groundbreaking Measure

NJ may open ‘safe’ sites for drug users — This is how it would work
https://nj1015.com/nj-may-open-safe-sites-for-drug-users-this-is-how-it-would-work/

More manufacturing jobs could lower rates of crime and drug trafficking, economist argues at the IMF

Exclusive - Drugs Invade Syria through Help of Militias

Afghanistan’s transformation into a narco-state
How a tiny African kingdom won the fight against poaching
Gavin Bell – The Telegraph: 8 April 2019
The small African nation of eSwatini (formerly known as Swaziland) has made great strides in keeping its wildlife safe from trafficking. It’s dangerous to be a poacher in eSwatini because rangers shoot to kill, prison sentences are long, and fines are stiff.
https://www.telegraph.co.uk/travel/destinations/africa/articles/eswatini-wildlife-holiday/

Fostering Citizen Enforcement and Rule of Law Could Cut Down Illegal Logging
Kyla Peterson – Wilson Center: 11 April 2019

For more on this theme:
Fighting illegal fishing
https://theaseanpost.com/article/fighting-illegal-fishing
Illegal Fishing Persists in Honduran Shark Sanctuaries
Peru Targets Multinationals Linked to Sale of Illegal Gold
https://www.insightcrime.org/news/analysis/peru-targets-multinationals-illegal-gold/
‘You often get sick’: the deadly toll of illegal gold mining in South Africa
Governments recommit to tackling illegal wildlife trade
Animal protection poised for big wins in new Congress
Mexican ecologists push to transform prison island into nature reserve
https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-019-01030-y
Will lifting ban save SA’s rhinos?
https://www.iol.co.za/saturday-star/will-lifting-ban-save-sas-rhinos-20828363
How can Cambodia take on the mammoth task of fighting its illegal ivory trade?
Illegal marijuana growers poison forests — these people fight back
Human Trafficking Is an Epidemic in the U.S. It’s Also Big Business
Jaclyn Gallucci – Fortune: 14 April 2019

Human trafficking is a multibillion-dollar industry. And in the U.S., data on trafficking is scarce and incomplete.

What happens after victims of trafficking return to Nigeria?
Sine Flambach, May-Len Skilbrei and Erlend Paasche – Open Democracy: 16 April 2019

Programs for “assisted voluntary return” of migrants often show little progress at helping irregular migrants in the long term.

For more on this theme:
Turkey gives Serbia devices to fight human smuggling

UK joins forces with Nigeria to fight human trafficking

Pope’s Good Friday service focuses on sex trafficked girls
http://news.trust.org/item/20190418224615-leb8m/

Sex trafficking on the darknet being used to finance terrorism – report
https://www.jpost.com/Middle-East/Sex-trafficking-on-the-darknet-being-used-to-finance-terrorism-report-587216

Passing The Parcel: The European Union And Refugees In The Mediterranean – OpEd

Political instability cause of irregular migration in West-Africa – ECOWAS Rep

IOM and the European Union Helping Thousands of Vulnerable Migrants to Get Home from Turkey

‘Change the men’, say U.S. fighters against sex trafficking
http://news.trust.org/item/20190418122252-7di3b

Anantapur: NGOs want new human trafficking laws in force
INTERNET GOVERNANCE

Is A Fragmented Internet Inevitable?
Kalev Leetaru – Forbes: 13 April 2019

With nations unable to agree to a global set of internet rules, a fragmented internet seems inevitable.

https://www.forbes.com/sites/kalevleetaru/2019/04/13/is-a-fragmented-internet-inevitable/#11514b4a223c

For more on this theme:
(China, Global) China’s internet model gaining overseas acceptance
http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1146494.shtml

(Namibia) Namibia formalizes internet regulatory framework

(Global) Breaking the internet: New regulations imperil global network

INTERNET FREEDOM

A timeline of how things went downhill for TikTok in India
Kuwar Singh – Quartz: 17 April 2019

TikTok, a video-sharing app, has been banned in India following a ruling by the Madras High Court.


For more on this theme:
(Thailand) Thailand tilts towards Chinese-style internet controls

(India) India Is Leading the World in Internet Shutdowns

(U.K.) Why the UK’s porn block will backfire spectacularly
PRIVACY AND SECURITY

New way to improve cybersecurity
U.S. Army Research Laboratory: 17 April 2019

Researchers at Towson University and the U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command’s Army Research Laboratory may have identified a new way to improve network security.

https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2019/04/190417102734.htm

For more on this theme:

(Global) Privacy Is Too Big to Understand

(Global) Forget about privacy in today’s digital world

(India) 60% Indian firms worried about Internet security

CYBER STATECRAFT DEVELOPMENT

Russian government-backed cyber mafia stole money and secrets
60 Minutes: 18 April 2019

Russian hacking goes to the highest levels, with President Vladimir Putin reportedly involved in some of the attacks. “Increasingly, you cannot tell which is which when it comes to the criminal and the intelligence agency,” says John Carlin, assistant attorney general for national security in the Obama administration.


For more on this theme:

(Ukraine, Russia) To Battle Russian Disinformation, Ukraine Mimics … Russia
https://www.justsecurity.org/63682/to-battle-russian-disinformation-ukraine-mimics-russia/

(China, U.S.) The U.S. Is Losing a Major Front to China in the New Cold War

(Russia) What Russia will really test if it ‘unplugs’ from the internet
PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

Cybersecurity Advisory Committee will strengthen national security through a stronger public-private partnership

Patrick D. Gaul – The Hill: 16 April 2019

The U.S. Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) within the Department of Homeland Security is focused on protecting the nation’s cyber assets and infrastructure. CISA believes in creating strong public/private cyber security partnerships that involve exchanging threat intelligence and communicating about critical security issues.


For more on this theme:

(U.S.) Cybersecurity doesn't stop at the federal level — our states need help

(U.S.) Cyber Shield 19 Offers Partnerships and Cutting-Edge Training in the Ever-Changing Cyber Fight

PROTECTION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

EU Parliament Approves Heavily Disputed Copyright Directive

The National Law Review: 18 April 2019

The European Council of the European Union approved new copyright rules that aim to give more protection to artists and news organizations. Critics say the new rules will limit freedom of speech and online creativity and punish smaller web companies.

https://www.natlawreview.com/article/eu-parliament-approves-heavily-disputed-copyright-directive

For more on this theme:

(Global) Industrial cyber crime reaches ‘pandemic proportions’
https://www.itweb.co.za/content/kYbe9MXxwdAMAWpG

(Central Asia) Decoding a ‘New’ Elite Cyber Espionage Team

(Iran) Iranian Hackers Increasing Their Activity Worldwide as Part of New Cyber-Espionage Program
CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING

**Rethinking Solutions to the InfoSec Skills Shortage**
Omo Osagiede – InfoSecurity: 19 April 2019

If current approaches to closing the cyber skills gaps aren’t working (and the shortages indicate they are not), then it’s time to change them.

https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/infosec/rethinking-solutions-to-the-skills/

*For more on this theme:*

(Bangladesh, Global) Tackling the effects of malicious cyber attacks

(Pakistan) Pakistan’s internet capacity to be increased by 96 Tb/s with new submarine cable system

COMBATING TERRORISM AND CYBER CRIME

**Report: Under-Resourced People Face Higher-Than-Average Cyber Risks**
Brandi Vincent – Nextgov: 18 April 2019

The Center for Long-Term Cybersecurity at the University of California, Berkeley, released a report on April 15 discussing the importance of improving cyber security awareness in underserved populations, which face “higher-than-average risks” of being victims of cyber attacks.


*For more on this theme:*

(Global) Cyber Criminals Target Poorly Protected Small Businesses

(U.K.) Is there a link between videogaming and cybercrime? Police think so

(Global) The Role of Cyber Forensics in Criminal Offences
INFORMATION SHARING

Canada, cyber and defence sectors ‘lack mutual trust,’ says industry report
Howard Solomon – IT World Canada: 16 April 2019

Canada’s government isn’t working closely enough with the cyber-security sector to purchase products or share threat information, according to a report by the Canadian Association of Defence and Security Industries.


For more on this theme:
(U.S.) Post-Shutdown, CISA Carves Out a Space in Cybersecurity

CYBER PROTECTION OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Cybersecurity: This giant wargame is preparing for the next big election hack
Steve Ranger – ZDNet: 15 April 2019

NATO’s annual Locked Shields exercise focused on stopping hackers from causing chaos during the elections of a small, fictional country. The event is the largest and most advanced international live-fire cyber exercise in the world.

https://www.zdnet.com/article/cybersecurity-this-giant-wargame-is-preparing-for-the-next-big-election-hack/

For more on this theme:
(U.S.) A Different Type of Federal Agency: How DHS’s Newest Cybersecurity Agency Can Help Your Business
https://www.jdsupra.com/legalnews/a-different-type-of-federal-agency-how-36509/

(Global) Cyber Sights on Critical Infrastructure
https://www.forbes.com/sites/samcurry/2019/04/16/cyber-sights-on-critical-infrastructure/#e8ce0fe77290

(Australia) Power grid could be attacked ‘at any time’
**PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)**

**ISIS**

*Treasury Designates Key Nodes of ISIS’s Financial Network Stretching Across the Middle East, Europe, and East Africa*

*U.S. Department of the Treasury: 15 April 2019*

The United States imposed sanctions on financiers with bases in Belgium, Kenya and Turkey. The U.S. accuses them of funneling money to ISIS.


**ISIS: the generational problem**

*Rodger Shanahan – The Interpreter: 16 April 2019*

While attention is focused on foreign fighters, their wives and children, a much bigger, long-term concern is being ignored – the fate of 30,000 Iraqi ISIS members held in Syria. If this situation is not properly handled, it could be the makings of ISIS 2.0.


*For more on this theme:*

**ISIS offshoot in Afghanistan willing, able to strike US, says intelligence official**


**ISIS Claims First-Ever Attack in Congo**


**Is ISIS winning hearts and minds in Iraq’s Makhmour?**

[http://www.rudaw.net/english/kurdistan/180420192](http://www.rudaw.net/english/kurdistan/180420192)

**Face to face with ISIS: Episode 1**


**DNA test confirms killing of leader of ISIS-affiliated group in Philippines**


**ISIS member tasked with ‘bringing in migrants,’ newly obtained terror group documents show**

[https://www.foxnews.com/world/isis-islamic-state-paris-attacks-terror-europe-middle-east](https://www.foxnews.com/world/isis-islamic-state-paris-attacks-terror-europe-middle-east)

**Newly found letter from ISIS operatives offers more clues to Baghdadi being alive**


**ISIS terrorists regrouping in Syria for new offensive: source**

TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

**Boko Haram Evolves and Persists in Northeast Nigeria**
*John Campbell – Council on Foreign Relations: 17 April 2019*

It appears that the two factions of Boko Haram have severed ties and are working simultaneously, but not cooperatively, in their attacks. Both factions are evolving and growing, and both are far from defeated.


**Belly of the beast: Inside Shabaab’s gruesome abduction syndicate**
*Nyambega Gisesa – Daily Nation: 14 April 2019*

Al-Shabaab has increasingly used abductions to instill fear, garner ransoms and influence policy.


*For more on this theme:*

**Indo-Pacific Terrorism: What to Expect for the Foreseeable Future**

**Peace talks postponed as Taliban objects to size of Afghan delegation**

**With the ISIS caliphate defeated in Syria, an Islamist militant rivalry takes root in Yemen**

**Official: Taliban, IS Deprive Afghan Kids of Polio Vaccine**

**Hamas broadcasts on Israeli radio for two months uninterrupted**
https://www.jpost.com/Arab-Israeli-Conflict/Hamas-broadcasts-on-Israeli-radio-for-two-months-uninterrupted-587184

**Al Qaeda declares solidarity with Turkistan Islamic Party in the face of Chinese oppression**

**Al Qaeda linked Kashmiri terror chief denounces Pakistan, calls for renewed jihad**

**The Resilience of Jihadi Extremist Groups in North Africa**
https://globalsecurityreview.com/resilience-extremist-groups-north-africa/
RADICALIZATION AND MESSAGING

The rout of ISIS gives the world an opportunity to defeat its ideology
Kyle Matthews – The Conversation: 14 April 2019

While the world has been relatively successful at defeating ISIS on the ground, it has yet to effectively tackle its ideological draw. This author suggests that prosecuting ISIS and its leaders for their crimes would expose facts about the group that would deter future recruits.


For more on this theme:

Strict regulation of Indonesia homeschooling key to counter terrorism, official says
https://thedefensepost.com/2019/04/18/indonesia-homeschooling-regulation-terrorism/

In Niger, rising temperatures mean barren fields — but fertile ground for terrorism
https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/in-niger-rising-temperatures-mean-barren-fields-but-fertile-ground-for-terrorism

Why Are ‘Deradicalized’ Jihadis Funding ISIS?
https://clarionproject.org/why-are-deradicalized-jihadis-funding-isis/

To Prevent Extremism, We Must Examine Home Schooling And Social Exclusion
https://www.forbes.com/sites/nikitamalik/2019/04/15/to-prevent-extremism-we-must-examine-home-schooling-and-social-exclusion/#7f2008a41b2c

This is Not Us — and Yet it is Us: Why Gendered Analysis of Terrorism is Sorely Needed
https://blogs.prio.org/2019/03/this-is-not-us-and-yet-it-is-us-why-gendered-analysis-of-terrorism-is-sorely-needed/

EU Approves Billions In Fines For Google And Facebook If Terrorist Content Not Removed

COUNTERTERRORISM STRATEGIES

Marshall Center’s Counterterrorism Course Forms Partnerships to Fight Terrorism
Christine June – George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies: 14 April 2019

The Program on Terrorism and Security Studies at the George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies brings together professionals from around the globe to learn and to build partnerships.

https://www.army.mil/article/220262/marshall_centers_counterterrorism_course_forms_partnerships_to_fight_terrorism

For more on this theme:

American General: U.S. ‘Not Winning’ Counterterror Fight in West Africa
https://www.voanews.com/a/4877498.html
FOREIGN FIGHTERS

The Dangerous Dregs of ISIS
Robin Wright – The New Yorker: 16 April 2019
The conditions at the prisons holding tens of thousands of captured ISIS members are horrific: The prisons are overcrowded, and disease is running rampant.

US officials say more than 2,000 suspected foreign ISIS fighters being held in Syria
Ryan Browne and Jennifer Hansler – CNN: 17 April 2019
The biometric screening of ISIS detainees in Syria is progressing and is now expected to show that more than 2,000 of them are foreign fighters.

For more on this theme:
Islamic State recruit says many foreign fighters jailed or killed
https://www.reuters.com/article/us-syria-islamic-state-tajikistan/islamic-state-recruit-says-many-foreign-fighters-jailed-or-killed-idUSKCN1RN0TU

A path back from the ruins of ISIS

Israeli Islamic State fighter stripped of citizenship in absentia

Former Jihadi bride blames BULLYING as her reason for joining ISIS
https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/1116160/isis-news-islamic-state-uk-jihadi-bride-shamima-begum

UN urges help for thousands of foreign children in ISIL camp

Russia's Repatriation of ISIS Members

What to do with the children of Islamic State?

Teenage brides trapped between Islamic State and its victors

UN Calls for Repatriation of IS Wives, Children in Syria