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CORRUPTION

EU countries risk backsliding on anti-corruption: report
Ginger Hervey – Politico: 3 May 2018
The Council of Europe’s anti-corruption group released a report that says several European countries have taken a step backward in the fight against corruption. The group reported that numerous nations either reversed anti-graft measures they had in place or failed to implement promised new measures.

South Africa's print media is failing to empower citizens on corruption
Vanessa Malila – Mail & Guardian: 3 May 2018
After being lauded for exposing widespread corruption in South Africa, the media is being chastised for failing to motivate citizens to actually do something about the exploitation.
https://mg.co.za/article/2018-05-03-south-africas-print-media-is-failing-to-empower-citizens-on-corruption

For more on this theme:

Ukraine anti-corruption court can start work early 2019 – prosecutor

Australian anti-corruption regime failing as Shorten promises better

A New Guatemala Attorney General Brings New Concerns

Why corruption persists
https://www.vanguardngr.com/2018/05/why-corruption-persists/

Engaging African Youth in Anti-Corruption Efforts

Brazil’s Lula, Workers Party leader hit by new corruption charges

A Tale Of Corruption Without Redemption – OpEd

Experts urge govs to keep up fight against corruption
DRUG TRAFFICKING

How synthetic opioids can radically change global illegal drug markets and foreign policy
Vanda Felbab-Brown, Jonathan P. Caulkins, and Keith Humphreys – Brookings: 30 April 2018

With synthetic drugs flooding the marketplace, the authors argue that the man-made drugs could disrupt the entire drug trade. The synthetics are changing the way governments fight illegal trade and the way drug cartels play the international trafficking game.


Thailand’s Legendary Marijuana
Peter Maguire – The Diplomat: 30 April 2018

Once a staunch ally in the war against drugs, Thailand has signaled a softening in its stance. If so, it may return to legalization of the marijuana that was once one of the kingdom’s greatest exports.


For more on this theme:

Drug trafficking: Death penalty no longer mandatory, but give judges full discretionary powers

Colombia sees billion-dollar bonanza from legacy of marijuana trade

Treasury: illegal landfills linked to money laundering and drug trade
https://www.mrw.co.uk/latest/treasury-illegal-landfills-linked-to-money-laundering-and-drug-trade/10030619.article

Washington’s war on drugs is failing. Does this former guerrilla have the answer?

Fentanyl figures in most fatal drug overdoses in U.S., researchers say

More businesses dropping marijuana from drug tests

Medical marijuana may help combat the opioid crisis. But there are better solutions.

Canada moves closer to regulating cannabis for non-medical purposes
TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

**Corrupt officials to blame for loss of Kenya's forest cover: government report**
*John Ndiso – Reuters: 3 May 2018*

A government task force in Kenya has found mismanagement and corruption in how the Kenya Forest Service handles illegal logging. The task force calls for firing the management and investigating the staff.


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**Illicit gold trade fuels conflict in South African mining town**
*Christopher Clark – Al Jazeera: 1 May 2018*

In an area just outside Johannesburg, South Africa, police claim 90 percent of the murders are linked to illegal gold mining. Fights over gold in the area have led to nearly weekly slayings of miners by rival gangs.


For more on this theme:

‘The illegal trade of wildlife is one of the great disgraces of humanity’

**Policing wildlife**

**N$178 million to combat wildlife crime**
https://www.newera.com.na/2018/05/03/n178-million-to-combat-wildlife-crime/

**Hong Kong increases wildlife smuggling jail terms**

**Our planet is losing wild animals rapidly. Here’s how to combat this**

**The ongoing trade threatening tigers, pangolins, songbirds and sharks revealed in latest TRAFFIC Bulletin**

**People’s reports help rescue wildlife animals**
https://en.vietnamplus.vn/peoples-reports-help-rescue-wildlife-animals/130499.vnp

**Global timber trafficking harms forests and costs billions of dollars — here’s how to curb it**
HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND IRREGULAR MIGRATION

Without family, U.S. children in foster care easy prey for human traffickers
Ellen Wulfhorst – Reuters: 3 May 2018

Often removed from negligent or abusive families, children who find themselves in the foster care system are increasingly vulnerable to human trafficking.


Human Trafficking for Organs: Ending abuse of the Poorest
Maged Srour – Inter Press Service: 30 April 2018

The demand globally for organs far outweighs the legal donor lists. In several countries, illegal organ trafficking has peaked, often with organs stolen from trafficked individuals.


For more on this theme:

Software that detects human trafficking

A Holistic Approach to Human Trafficking
http://thenationaldiscourse.com/2628-2628/

Foreign Min., Cabinet cooperate to combat human trafficking
https://www.egypttoday.com/Article/1/49200/Foreign-Min-Cabinet-cooperate-to-combat-human-trafficking

How Rohingyas are becoming victims of human trafficking

Britain to support Nigeria in prosecuting human traffickers
https://www.vanguardngr.com/2018/05/983138/

Could Thailand become a global people smuggling destination?
http://www.nationmultimedia.com/detail/opinion/30344565

India Needs to Look Beyond the Debate on Regular and ‘Irregular’ Migrants

Euro-African Conference on Migration Starts in Morocco

The Complicated Reality of “Sex Trafficking”
https://daily.jstor.org/the-complicated-reality-of-sex-trafficking/
PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

INTERNET GOVERNANCE

How the U.S. Government Learned to Stop Worrying About The Global Internet and Kicked Russians Off Its Networks
Joseph Marks – Nextgov: 2 May 2018

At the risk of allowing the internet to become more Balkanized, the U.S. government has switched tactics when handling threats to U.S. interests. To maintain an open internet, the government once accepted some of the risks posed by Russia and China. Now the U.S. is developing countervailing laws and policies to limit those risks.


For more on this theme:
(Caribbean) Data Privacy Tops Caribbean Internet Governance Agenda

(Global) The Evolving Face of “Enhanced Cooperation”. What is Next after WGEC2.0?

INTERNET FREEDOM

IFF2018: Experts assess state of Internet Freedom in Africa
Daily Trust: 1 May 2018

Digital rights experts and stakeholders from around the globe recently spent several days assessing the state of internet freedom in Africa.


For more on this theme:
(Africa) African Governments Mark World Press Freedom Day with Crackdown Against Online Journalism
http://www.ipsnews.net/2018/05/african-governments-mark-world-press-freedom-day-crackdown-online-journalism/

(Russia) Russian internet protests: Thousands take to the streets to show opposition to censorship

(Global) Signal says Amazon, Google will no longer help it evade censorship
PRIVACY AND SECURITY

Cambridge Analytica’s closure is a pyrrhic victory for data privacy
Ivan Manokha – The Conversation: 3 May 2018

Cambridge Analytica, the firm embroiled in a controversy over its handling of Facebook’s user data, and its British parent SCL Elections Ltd., are shutting down after suffering a sharp drop in business, the company said.

For more on this theme:

(Global) Trust issues surrounding data privacy: Blockchain is the new backbone to the internet

(U.S., Global) U.S. Supreme Court to hear Google privacy settlement dispute

(Europe) Are Google and Facebook Undermining Europe’s Privacy Rules?
https://www.wired.com/story/are-google-and-facebook-undermining-europes-privacy-rules/

CYBER STATECRAFT DEVELOPMENT

Victoria investing A$17.6 million to deliver state’s Cyber Security Strategy
Priyankar Bhunia – Open Gov Asia: 2 May 2018

The government of Victoria, Australia, will devote $17.6 million of the 2018-19 budget to deliver the state’s first Cyber Security Strategy. The strategy will protect government agencies and networks from hacking threats, and it will help to protect the privacy of Victorian residents.
https://www.opengovasia.com/articles/victoria-investing-a-17-6-million-to-deliver-states-cyber-security-strategy

For more on this theme:

(Global) What a cyberwar looks like — and what it doesn’t
https://www.cnbc.com/2018/05/03/what-a-cyberwar-looks-like-commentary.html

(U.S.) Looking Inside New York State’s Cyber Security Strategy

(U.S.) What Is Absent From the U.S. Cyber Command ‘Vision’
https://lawfareblog.com/what-absent-us-cyber-command-vision
PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

Kentucky House Leader Calls For Investigation Into State Broadband Project
Ryland Barton – WKU: 30 April 2018

A troubled state broadband project is going under the microscope again. Kentucky Wired began with the promise of bringing high-speed internet access to far-flung, economically disadvantaged regions of the commonwealth. But persistent delays and cost overruns in the tens of millions of dollars have dampened enthusiasm for the project.

http://wkyufm.org/post/kentucky-house-leader-calls-investigation-state-broadband-project#stream/0

For more on this theme:

(Global) European Commission to more than double artificial intelligence investments to catch up with Asia

(U.S.) How communities across North Carolina are trying to bridge ‘the homework gap’

PROTECTION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

WHOIS Going to Keep the Internet Safe?
Matthew Kahn – Lawfare: 2 May 2018

The European Union’s General Data Protection Regulation has declared that the WHOIS system for searching databases is illegal under a new privacy law. The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers is seeking to keep the system alive because it has become central to law enforcement investigations into cyber crime and such issues as intellectual property infringement.

https://www.lawfareblog.com/whois-going-keep-internet-safe

For more on this theme:

(Canada) Canada announces new IP strategy
http://www.iprotheinternet.com/iprotheinternetnews/article.php?article_id=5905

(U.S., Global) Internet poses challenge to IPR protection: US expert

(Indonesia) Intellectual property rights: Indonesia can win the war on online piracy
http://www.thejakartapost.com/academia/2018/05/03/intellectual-property-rights-indonesia-can-win-the-war-on-online-piracy.html
CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING

South Africa 1st with Inclusive Internet ranking
Q-KON Africa – ITWeb Africa: 2 May 2018

The Internet Inclusive Index shows, as expected, that the developed world is leading the way on availability, affordability, relevance and readiness of the internet. But South Africa placed 71 overall and first in Africa, which is particularly high for a middle-income African nation.


For more on this theme:

(U.S.) Defense panels want the Pentagon to form a cyber reserve team to help states

COMBATING TERRORISM AND CYBER CRIME

Dubai Police launch new website to help fight cyber crime
Arabian Business: 1 May 2018

Dubai police have launched an online platform to receive public complaints about electronic crimes such as hacking. Maj. Gen. Abdullah Khalifa Al Marri, commander in chief of the Dubai Police Force, urged the public to use the platform for quicker response times.


For more on this theme:

(Global) ‘Machine on machine war’ the future of cybercrime
http://www.campdenfb.com/article/machine-machine-war-future-cybercrime

(Europe) Regional Meeting International Cooperation on Cybercrime and Electronic Evidence

(India, Global) Cyber fraudsters stay ahead of domain experts
INFORMATION SHARING

Ruppersberger calls for DHS to improve threat-sharing, warns of nation-state hacking tools
Sean Lyngaas – CyberScoop: 30 April 2018

Increasing threats from cyberspace mean that the U.S. Congress needs to rethink how it oversees the Department of Homeland Security’s cyber security efforts, according to a report by U.S. Rep. Dutch Ruppersberger.

https://www.cyberscoop.com/dhs-information-sharing-dutch-ruppersberger/

For more on this theme:

(Global) Importance of information sharing in battle against cyber threats

(Australia) World’s first smart city research lab opens in Sydney

(GLOBAL) How Countries “Outsource” Electronic Surveillance And Threaten Privacy

CYBER PROTECTION OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Critical infrastructure firms urged to patch Schneider Electric flaws
Warwick Ashford – Computer Weekly: 2 May 2018

Security flaws would have let potential hackers shut down power plants, water systems and solar power facilities remotely, researchers say.


For more on this theme:

(U.S.) New standard accepted by Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for critical infrastructure protection

(U.S., Global) The critical need for automation in agency cyber defense
https://gcn.com/articles/2018/05/02/automating-cyber-defense.aspx

(U.K.) Two-thirds of critical infrastructure firms have suffered service outages in last two years
http://www.information-age.com/critical-infrastructure-firms-service-outages-123471732/
PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

ISIS

Did bin Laden’s death help the Islamic State?
Tricia Bacon and Elizabeth Grimm Arsenault – The Washington Post: 2 May 2018

The alliance between al-Qaida and the beginnings of ISIS was short-lived. Often at odds, the two groups went their separate ways three years after al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden died and ISIS challenged its al-Qaida brethren for leadership of the Sunni jihadist movement. If bin Laden had lived, would things have been different?


Islamic State ally stakes out territory around Lake Chad
Paul Carsten and Ahmed Kingimi – Reuters: 29 April 2018

Winning hearts and minds is the goal of ISIS’ West African affiliate. The group is building wells and providing safety and equipment for farmers around the Lake Chad region.


For more on this theme:

Islamic State claims responsibility for gun attack north of Baghdad

Islamic State attacks rebel groups in southern Syria
https://www.almasdarnews.com/article/islamic-state-attacks-rebel-groups-in-southern-syria/

The Latest: Islamic State group claims twin Libya bombings
https://apnews.com/79d9e88ec641406f8dc648c607673149

Abu al-Hasan al-Muhajir, Spokesperson for the Islamic State, calls for the wave of terrorist attack
https://www.ict.org.il/Article/2190/al-Muhajir_eng#gsc.tab=0

Islamic State releases video showing execution of Iraq ‘election advocates’

Kidnapped Sex Slaves Help Islamic State Gain Turf in Afghanistan

Islamic State assassin: How I killed more than 100 people

From jail, remorseful ex-ISIS fighter warns: Group will retool and return
TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

Al-Qaeda branch in Syria merges with jihadist group to form new terrorist legion
Leith Aboufadel – Al-Masdar Al-'Arabi: 29 April 2018

An al-Qaida branch in Syria merged with another jihadist faction to form a new terrorist group in the North.


Why Hezbollah will be paying close attention to Sunday’s elections in Lebanon
Michael Young – The National: 2 May 2018

While no dramatic changes are expected in the current system, Hezbollah has a special interest in maintaining its parliamentary seats in the upcoming elections. If the political forces running the country stay the same, Lebanon’s policies likely will remain unchanged.

https://www.thenational.ae/opinion/comment/why-hezbollah-will-be-paying-close-attention-to-sunday-s-elections-in-lebanon-1.726759

For more on this theme:

The Sun Is Shining, Birds Are Singing, and the Taliban Launched a Spring Offensive

Al-Shabaab ranked as Africa’s deadliest militant group

Al-Qaeda-linked fighters prepare to quit Yarmouk in south Damascus
http://www.middleeasteye.net/news/syrian-rebels-prepare-quit-south-damascus-808146893

Katibat al Tawhid wal Jihad: A faithful follower of al-Qaeda from Central Asia

Kashmir al-Qaida cell threatens journoes

We Don’t Know When the War on al-Qaida Will End — or When It Began

Hezbollah chief’s censored speech reaffirms group as Tehran’s arm in Lebanon
https://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2018/05/hezbollah-chiefs-censored-speech-reaffirms-group-as-iran-proxy.php

Women on Hezbollah’s all-male lists
FOREIGN FIGHTERS

Opinion: How Hezbollah Will Use Foreign Fighters to Conquer Lebanon
David Daoud – Haaretz: 27 April 2018

If there is another conflict between Hezbollah and Israel, as rumors seem to indicate, Hezbollah has promised that “thousands” of foreign Shiite fighters will move into Lebanon to fight on its side.


Journey for Some Foreign Fighters Could End in Gitmo
Jeff Seldin – Voice of America: 3 May 2018

New guidance from the Pentagon to the White House indicates that defense officials may be willing to repopulate the Guantanamo Bay detention facility with fighters who cannot be safely held elsewhere.


For more on this theme:

Iraq sentences 8 foreign female terrorists to life over joining Islamic State

Known Genocidaires And Daesh Foreign Fighters Avoid Prosecutions In The UK

From Neo-Nazi to militant: The foreign fighters in Ukraine who Australia’s laws won’t stop

‘Not Simple’ to Find Place to Put 400 ISIS Captured Foreign Fighters, Mattis Says

Chad: UN experts call for stronger support to stop mercenaries, foreign fighters and end humanitarian crisis

As Iraq Tries To Deal With Remnants Of ISIS, Wives Of Fighters Sentenced To Life In Prison

Who are Iran’s 80,000 ‘Shi’ite’ Fighters in Syria?
https://www.jpost.com/Middle-East/Who-are-Irans-80000-Shiite-fighters-in-Syria-552940

Jihadis returning to UK may need to be tried in secret, warns terror watchdog
RADICALIZATION AND MESSAGING

Muslim radicalization in Britain: Countering the extremists’ rationale
Shamil Shams – Deutsche Welle: 30 April 2018
In an interview, London-based scholar Farid Panjwani talks about the reasons behind the growing radicalization of South Asian Muslim youths in the United Kingdom and what needs to be done to counter the extremist threat.

Preventing, Not Just Countering, Violent Extremism
Katerina Papatheodorou – Lawfare: 29 April 2018
While programs to counter violent extremism are often talked about, they are implemented on a small scale, if at all. And some that have been started are now on the chopping block. The author argues that doing away with such programs would be a mistake.
https://lawfareblog.com/preventing-not-just-countering-violent-extremism

For more on this theme:
When terrorists defect
Fundamentalist Religious Discourse In Process Of Radicalization To Violence – Analysis
In Belmarsh Prison: Radicalization or De-radicalization?
https://pulitzercenter.org/reporting/belmarsh-prison-radicalization-or-de-radicalization
Perspectives/Radicalization among Central Asia’s migrants: Views from the ground
Ugandan police discover ‘radicalization center’, kill 2, free 100 women and kids
Radicalism, Extremism and Pakistan
http://blogs.dunyanews.tv/21361/
Indonesia: Surveys Show Students Exposed to Radical Islam Ideology
After losing son to Daesh, British mother vows to help others avoid the same tragedy
http://www.arabnews.com/node/1293746/world
COUNTERTERRORISM STRATEGIES

Dushanbe holds International conference on counter-terrorism
Trend News Agency: 3 May 2018

Countering Terrorism and Preventing Violent Extremism, a two-day, high-level international conference, opened May 3 in Tajikistan. It addressed global security challenges and how to unite efforts to counter violent extremism and terrorism.

https://en.trend.az/casia/tajikistan/2897847.html

For more on this theme:

Whose Responsibility is it to Confront Terrorism Online?
https://lawfareblog.com/whose-responsibility-it-confront-terrorism-online

Gendering Counterterrorism: How to, and How Not to – Part I
https://www.justsecurity.org/55522/gendering-counterterrorism-to/

Gendering Counterterrorism: How to, and How Not to – Part II
https://www.justsecurity.org/55670/gendering-counterterrorism-to-part-ii/

Counter extremism drives in Pakistan

UAE, IPU announce a new counter-terrorism strategy

Philippines, U.S. troops “Balikatan 2018” drills to focus counter-terrorism, chemical attack
http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2018-05/03/c_137153801.htm
CONSEQUENCE MANAGEMENT

DEALING WITH DISASTER

This inflatable building concept could save thousands of lives in a natural disaster
Robby Berman – Big Think: 2 May 2018

Shelter after a natural disaster is a huge problem. Inspired by origami, the Skyshelter.zip is preassembled and compressed and can be flown into a disaster zone and dropped to the ground. After being anchored, Skyshelter.zip is inflated with helium in a process likened to pumping up a balloon.


European scientists convene on disaster risk
Rosalind Cook – U.N. Office for Disaster Risk Reduction: 27 April 2018

The European Science and Technology Advisory Group convened in April to tackle emerging challenges in disaster risk.

https://www.unisdr.org/archive/58028

For more on this theme:

Bracing for the Storm

National workshop for creating disaster risk reduction database concludes

Action needed on water and disasters
https://www.unisdr.org/archive/58108

Trade rows, new tech, natural disasters present dangers to Asia growth momentum:
Heng Swee Keat

To build resilience, listen to people’s needs
http://news.trust.org/item/20180503163407-ogy9a/