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CORRUPTION

Saudi King orders protection for whistleblowers reporting financial corruption
Shafi Musaddique – CNBC: 7 May 2018

Saudi Arabia’s King Salman has ordered protection for employees who report financial and administrative corruption as part of an effort to combat graft. Dozens of royals and top businessmen were detained last year and questioned about corruption. Many paid financial settlements to the government.


New Arrests Expand Brazil’s Already Massive Anti-Corruption Drive
Angelika Albaladejo – InSight Crime: 8 May 2018

Increasing arrests under the Brazilian anti-corruption investigations will further bog down an already backlogged court system. But the indictments highlight Brazil’s continuing commitment to combating graft.


For more on this theme:

NBU conducts planned measures on preventing corruption
https://www.ukrinform.net/rubric-economy/2457443-nbu-conducts-planned-measures-on-preventing-corruption.html

Corruption Perception Index - bribery and corruption across the global landscape and what it means for your business
https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=3c06cb75-f531-4c12-85eb-d05f5b2591c9

There’s a reason for the lack of trust in government and business: corruption

Iraqi election highlights Basra corruption
https://www.thenational.ae/world/mena/iraqi-election-highlights-basra-corruption-1.728736

Sri Lanka parliament backs special courts for bribery, corruption cases

Weak justice system and anti-corruption war in Nigeria
https://guardian.ng/opinion/weak-justice-system-and-anti-corruption-war-in-nigeria/

In a historic election, Malaysia’s allegedly corrupt prime minister lost to his 92-year-old former mentor who ran on behalf of a man he put in jail
DRUG TRAFFICKING

The head of the US Coast Guard wants to cut a vital artery in the heart of the global cocaine trade
Christopher Woody – Business Insider: 6 May 2018

The commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard wants to combat Colombia’s cocaine trafficking by focusing on the rivers used to get the drugs out to sea.


UK among world’s biggest buyers of drugs on dark web as illicit trade grows, survey finds
Lizzie Dearden – The Independent: 9 May 2018

According to the Global Drug Survey 2018, the United Kingdom is among the world’s largest purchasers of drugs online, behind only Finland and Norway.


For more on this theme:

Drugs being sold on Facebook & the ‘dark web’

Elite Panamanian task force gains skills in SA to fight drug trafficking headed to US

Drug Trafficking Threatens Colombia’s Peace Deal With the FARC

Refugees recruited as meth mules as drug trade forges unlikely link between Rohingya and Myanmar troops

High intensity drug trafficking designation sought for the Marianas
https://www.postguam.com/news/local/high-intensity-drug-trafficking-designation-sought-for-the-marianas/article_d0e4ff00-4f48-11e8-82ac-83f9bc092c03.html

Mexico: AMLO Open to Debating Drug Legalization

Cocaine country: How Scotland’s drug trade works
https://stv.tv/news/features/1414403-cocaine-country-how-scotlands-drug-trade-works/

Nigeria’s Drug Epidemic
TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

**Hobby Lobby’s Smuggled Artifacts Will Be Returned To Iraq**
Sasha Ingber – NPR: 1 May 2018

Hobby Lobby, a U.S.-based retailer, is sending smuggled artifacts back to Iraq. The company bought 5,500 ancient Iraqi artifacts in 2010 despite warnings that the objects were likely stolen, according to the U.S. Department of Justice.

https://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2018/05/01/607582135/hobby-lobbys-smuggled-artifacts-will-be-returned-to-iraq

**Combating Wildlife Trafficking: Opportunities Exist to Improve the Use of Financial Rewards**
U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO): 8 May 2018

A U.S. GAO investigation found that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration are underusing financial incentives meant to encourage whistleblowers to come forward with information to stop illegal wildlife trafficking.


*For more on this theme:*

**China Shuts Down Ivory Trade, Wildlife Trafficking Continues**

**Top US official says there’s no link between Shabaab, ivory trafficking**

**Smuggled timber, trafficked eels: Agencies ramp up against environmental crime**

**Satellites being used to fight illegal logging**
https://news.sky.com/story/satellites-being-used-to-fight-illegal-logging-11359058

**Start environment classes in schools to protect trees, state told**

**Galamsey fight is war, not battle - Ken Ashigbey**

**National plan of action sought against illegal fishing**

**European Union to review Taiwan’s efforts against illegal fishing**

**Thailand seeks ASEAN-wide cooperation on illegal fishing policies**
HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND IRREGULAR MIGRATION

The Surprising Link Between Climate Change and Human Trafficking
Wudan Yan – The Revelator: 7 May 2018

Climate change is causing extreme weather and high levels of migration. As the problem worsens, vulnerable migrant populations become more susceptible to human trafficking and forced labor.


Nigerian migrants sue Italy for aiding Libyan coast guard
Steve Scherer – Reuters: 8 May 2018

In the first case of its kind, Nigerian migrants filed a lawsuit against Italy for violating multiple articles of the European Convention on Human Rights by helping Libya’s efforts to return them to North Africa.


For more on this theme:

Lack of identity, support leads to ‘textbook’ human trafficking victims

Fewer than 1% of more than 28,000 irregular asylum seekers have been removed from Canada so far

Europe’s solution to migration is to outsource it to Africa
https://euobserver.com/opinion/141784

NIS launches campaign against irregular migration
PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

INTERNET GOVERNANCE

A not-so-secret war for control of the internet
Lizzie O’Leary – Marketplace: 4 May 2018

American University Professor Laura DeNardis joined Marketplace Weekend host Lizzie O’Leary to discuss the internet’s oversight and standards.
https://www.marketplace.org/2018/05/04/tech/not-so-secret-war-control-internet

For more on this theme:
(Caribbean) Data privacy tops Internet governance agenda
(U.S.) The Internet Can Survive Without Net Neutrality
(Global) ICANN Empowers Youths to Expand their Commitment

INTERNET FREEDOM

Rights Groups Seek Help Keeping Messaging Apps ‘Disguised’
Michelle Quinn – Voice of America: 5 May 2018

Amazon and Google have made it harder for people to get around censorship controls. Digital civil rights groups hope the U.S. Congress will step in.

For more on this theme:
(China) Censorship in China: Then they came for Peppa Pig
https://www.postandcourier.com/opinion/commentary/censorship-in-china-then-they-came-for-peppa-pig/article_3d7d3eb8-4fbf-11e8-8cd0-7318c10f9913.html
(Global) When governments censor websites and block messaging apps like Telegram, here’s where to turn for proof
http://www.cbc.ca/news/technology/ooni-tor-information-controls-measurement-censorship-iran-1.4653523
(China) How China censors its internet and controls information, from Great Firewall to 50 Cent Army: two new books explain
PRIVACY AND SECURITY

Care About Internet Privacy? Then Prove It
Michael R. Strain – Bloomberg: 9 May 2018

If you would trade the privacy information of your friends for a slice of pizza, you’d be in good company with students from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Researchers attempted to study the difference between stated privacy preferences and actual privacy-related behavior by offering small enticements for information.

https://www.bloomberg.com/view/articles/2018-05-09/web-privacy-is-important-for-gmail-not-facebook

For more on this theme:

(Canada) Canadians don’t take cyber threats seriously, says ex-national security advisor

(GLOBAL) Crypto-Mining, IoT Attacks Among Top Internet Security Threats in 2018

(GLOBAL) The Role of Norms in Internet Security: Reputation and its Limits

CYBER STATECRAFT DEVELOPMENT

#Belfast2018: The Three Key Aims of the National Cyber Security Strategy
Michael Hill – Infosecurity Magazine: 10 May 2018

The Centre for Secure Information Technologies’ eighth annual World Cyber Security Summit in Belfast, Northern Ireland, focused on the key areas of security and resilience to cyber threats.


For more on this theme:

(GLOBAL) Cyber Warfare: The Threat From Nation States
https://www.forbes.com/sites/kateoflahertyuk/2018/05/03/cyber-warfare-the-threat-from-nation-states/#1533e39e1c78

(U.S.) Intel Editorial: The U.S. Needs a National Strategy on Artificial Intelligence
PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

Can government solve the industry’s cyber woes?
Shefali Kapadia – Supply Chain Dive: 9 May 2018

The same threats that plague the government also plague the private sector. How the public and private sectors approach cyber threats must change, and that starts with better cooperation between the two.


For more on this theme:

(U.S.) A Public Option for the Internet

(U.S.) With Municipal Broadband, Cities Are Taking Back the Internet — and Making It Faster and Cheaper. Can Portland Do the Same?

PROTECTION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Cyber security and the growing role of red teaming
Rob Embers – IT Pro Portal: 9 May 2018

Thinking and simulating outside-the-box scenarios, or “red teaming,” is one of the best ways to protect your intellectual property.


For more on this theme:

(Global) What universities must do to make the grade in cyber security
https://www.todayonline.com/commentary/what-universities-must-do-make-grade-cyber-security

(China) Winnti cyber espionage group likely associated with Chinese state intelligence organs

(Iran, U.S.) U.S. retreat from Iran agreement could spur uptick in cyberattacks
CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING

The uphill battle to relaunch State Department’s cybersecurity policy office
Sean Lyngaas – CyberScoop: 7 May 2018

While those who favor re-establishing the U.S. State Department’s cyber security policy office can’t wait for it to be reinstated, those opposed continue to throw up obstacles. Proponents worry about a digital diplomacy gap.


For more on this theme:
(Africa) How cybersecurity challenges remain a roadblock towards Internet inclusion in Africa

(Global) E-Governance: a catalyst for development

(U.S.) Cybersecurity skills will pay off in Army, says a top Cyber Command officer

COMBATING TERRORISM AND CYBER CRIME

New Cybercrime certificate offers AU students insight into hackers’ minds
Alexa Lightle – WRDW/WAGT: 10 May 2018

Augusta University in Georgia will begin offering a cyber crime certification course that will help students understand why hackers commit the crimes.


For more on this theme:
(Czech Republic) LN: Cyber crime soaring in Czech Republic

(U.S.) FBI Reports Cybercrime Cost the U.S. $1.4B in 2017, but the Actual Number is Probably Even Bigger

(India) Cyber crime specialists to be trained
INFORMATION SHARING

**BSP bats for information sharing vs cyber attacks**  
*Lisa K. Esmael – The Manila Times: 6 May 2018*

The deputy governor of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) is urging information sharing to stop cyber crime and quickly eliminate cyber threats.

http://www.manilatimes.net/bsp-bats-for-information-sharing-vs-cyber-attacks/397020/

*For more on this theme:*

(South Korea) S. Korea to consider adopting US-style data-sharing regulation  

CYBER PROTECTION OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

**EU NIS Directive to boost cyber security of essential infrastructure comes into force**  
*John Leonard – Computing: 9 May 2018*

The European Union’s Security of Network Information Systems Directive, which aims to ensure that critical infrastructure is protected from cyber attacks and computer network failure, has come into force with fines for noncompliance.


*For more on this theme:*

(U.S.) House Panel Approves More Military Cyber Support for Critical infrastructure  

(U.S.) Let’s Get Serious About Securing the Nation’s Critical Infrastructure  
http://partners.powermag.com/cis/content/lets-get-serious-about-securing-the-nations-critical-infrastructure
ISIS

Analysis: Islamic State ramps up attack claims in Somalia
Caleb Weiss – Long War Journal: 9 May 2018

ISIS has recently stepped up its actions in Somalia, claiming 13 attacks in 2018. The group said it committed five assassinations over the past month alone. While not all the claims may be true, they are all plausible and consistent with ISIS activity in the area.


Mali ripe territory for ISIS, local militias — and they often clash
Soumaila T. Diarra – USA Today: 7 May 2018

Ethnic militias in Mali are claiming to have clashed often with ISIS fighters. As the terrorist organization is pushed from Syria and Iraq, African nations fear the group will invade the continent. So far, evidence indicates an uptick in attacks across Africa.


For more on this theme:

Syria rebels vacate towns near Damascus, leaving only Islamic State threat

ISIS-Linked Indonesian Jail Riot Ends as Police Raid Cellblock

Intercepted WhatsApp conversations of Islamic State operatives reveal plan to assassinate Narendra Modi, claims Gujarat ATS

Exclusive: Iraq Used Baghdadi Aide’s Phone to Capture Islamic State Commanders

Islamic State continues to battle Assad regime, allies

Islamic state claims responsibility for Afghan capital attack: agency

Iraq's Looming Election Has ISIS Spooked
TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

Facebook accused of introducing extremists to one another through ‘suggested friends’ feature
Martin Evans – The Telegraph: 5 May 2018

Facebook is a perfect tool for bringing people together — particularly supporters of the Islamic State. Research by the Counter Extremism Project claims Facebook’s algorithms are enabling sympathizers of the terrorist group to connect and radicalize others across the network.

https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2018/05/05/facebook-accused-introducing-extremists-one-another-suggested/

Will Islamic scholars’ fatwa force Afghan Taliban to join talks?
Shereena Qazi – Al Jazeera: 10 May 2018

Prominent Islamic scholars are meeting in Indonesia to discuss ways to bring peace to Afghanistan, including possible fatwas demanding the Taliban join talks. The Muslim imams from Afghanistan, Pakistan and Indonesia will also discuss how to challenge the Taliban’s narrative.


For more on this theme:

Pre-Ramadan al-Qaeda Message: Western Companies Targeted, Muslims Should Steer Clear

No evidence of Al-Shabaab role in elephant poaching, US says

Al-Qaeda restores ideological dominance as IS threat diminishes

‘Al-Qaeda Earns up to $40m Every Month’
https://clarionproject.org/al-qaeda-earns-40m-every-month/

Hamas Leader Implies ‘Hundreds Of Thousands’ Of Palestinians May Breach Israel Border

What’s behind Hamas’ offer of cease-fire to Israel?

Hezbollah, allies score major gains in Lebanon election
https://apnews.com/09719e44a3e44af9b28cd77485011643/Hezbollah,-allies-score-majo
FOREIGN FIGHTERS

Europe faces a wave of freed terror convicts. Is it ready?
Lori Hinnant – The Associated Press: 10 May 2018

As the first wave of terrorist convicts approach the end of their sentences, thousands more are likely returning to their home countries. The juxtaposition is a dangerous one for which Europe may not be prepared.

https://www.apnews.com/28a0ff6407834d859caab68893afa811

For more on this theme:

‘Operation Roundup’ Begins in Syria; ‘Global Solution’ Needed for Foreign Fighters

Iran recruits Afghan teenagers to fight war in Syria

Indonesia: Workshop Addresses Challenge Of Returning Families Of Foreign Terrorist Fighters

RADICALIZATION AND MESSAGING

This isn’t Helter Skelter: Why the internet alone can’t be blamed for radicalization
Daniel Baldino and Kosta Lucas – The Conversation: 11 May 2018

Radicalization is a social process, and the internet’s role is largely misunderstood. Information on the internet is not enough to convince someone to radicalize — it is the social interactions that prompt such a turn.


For more on this theme:

Islam’s values as means to counter radicalization, main focus of workshop in Conakry

Countering violent extremism
http://thenationonlineng.net/countering-violent-extremism/

Intellectual Entrepreneurship And Countering Violent Extremism
https://leadership.ng/2018/05/09/intellectual-entrepreneurship-and-countering-violent-extremism/

AMISOM and Somali government laud UNSOS for support in establishing community radios in Somalia
COUNTERTERRORISM STRATEGIES

Technology vs Terrorists: Government Competition Launches Monday
Conor Reynolds – Computer Business Review: 10 May 2018

The United Kingdom is looking for companies that can “automate the detection, cataloguing and analysis of still terrorist imagery posted on a range of social networking, public messaging or content hosting platforms,” the government said.


For more on this theme:

Japan contributes $3.73m for counter-terrorism in Pakistan
https://dailymail.co.uk/238518/japan-contributes-3-73m-for-counter-terrorism-in-pakistan/

Syria’s Kurds put Islamic State on trial, with focus on reconciliation

Hard and Soft Strategies: The UAE’s Approach to Counterterrorism