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COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

What’s So Controversial About China’s New Anti-Corruption Body?
Jamie P. Horsley – The Diplomat: 30 May 2018

China’s recent constitutional amendment created the National Supervision Commission, a massive anti-corruption body, and adopted the Supervision Law to govern its operations. The new commission is supposed to place the anti-corruption campaign under legal channels, but is ultimately accountable to the Chinese Communist Party instead of the country’s judiciary, bringing the panel’s efficacy into question.


How corruption slows disaster recovery
Juliet S. Sorensen and Elise Meyer – The Conversation: 5 June 2018

The already high costs of natural disasters in the Caribbean are tough enough to deal with, but when you add in the extra costs — including lives lost — due to rampant corruption, the price is too high to bear.

https://theconversation.com/how-corruption-slows-disaster-recovery-96832

For more on this theme:

Nigeria Sees More High Level Corruption Convictions Under Buhari
https://www.cfr.org/blog/nigeria-sees-more-high-level-corruption-convictions-under-buhari

IG Report Shows Afghanistan Failing To Fight Corruption

High-Profile Prosecutions Will Not Solve Kenya’s Corruption Problem
https://www.forbes.com/sites/riskmap/2018/06/06/high-profile-prosecutions-will-not-solve-kenyas-corruption-problem/#2c1edd5e184e

Is Guatemala’s Fight Against Corruption Under Threat?

Ghana dissolves football association amid corruption claims

South Africa Faces Long Haul to Roll Back Corruption Scourge

WhatsApp Helpline Launched For Corruption Complaints Against Cops

Level of corruption in Belgium has doubled in six years
DRUG TRAFFICKING

Australian invention able to help crack down on illegal drug trade
Xinhua: 8 June 2018

Crime fighters will soon have a new weapon in the battle against the illegal drug trade. A scientific team, including researchers from the Australian National University, has invented a postage stamp-size sensor capable of detecting minuscule quantities of the chemicals used in drugs.

http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2018-06/08/c_137239179.htm

Argentina’s New Drug Trafficking Innovation: ‘Narco-Ambulances’
Victoria Dittmar – InSight Crime: 5 June 2018

Drug traffickers in Argentina looking to move the illegal product have taken to stashing their marijuana in ambulances.


For more on this theme:

DEA Explains Drug Smuggling Methods Along the Southwest Border

Is Bolivia’s Coca Policy Protecting Traditions, or Creating a Narco-State?
https://www.worldpoliticsreview.com/articles/24824/is-bolivia-s-coca-policy-protecting-traditions-or-creating-a-narco-state

‘Who Isn’t Involved?’: How Corruption Fuels Cocaine Trafficking in Bolivia

Trump wants to execute drug dealers. But he granted commutation to one because Kim Kardashian asked.

U.S. sanctions Colombian cocaine trafficking organization

London gangs driven by desire to profit from drug trade, study finds
https://www.theguardian.com/society/2018/jun/06/london-gangs-profit-drug-trade-study

Asia’s new methamphetamine hotspot fueling regional unrest

Revealed: How new digital phone boxes are helping to drive Camden’s drug trade

Yaba: The Red Pills and the Rohingya
TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

Tracking the smugglers’ trail of priceless Islamic State loot to art markets in the West
Anne Barker – ABC: 5 June 2018

ISIS looted and smuggled out precious artifacts from Syria and Iraq that are now making their way to Western markets. Additional antiquities were likely smuggled to ports, where they are more difficult to track, or remain sitting in warehouses until it becomes easier to smuggle them into the West.


Boris Johnson wants tech to fight illegal wildlife trade
Lis Evenstad – Computer Weekly: 4 June 2018

United Kingdom Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson hosted a meeting to drive innovation in the fight against the illegal wildlife trade. Representatives from global technology companies met with conservationists to discuss technological approaches to tackling the problem.


For more on this theme:

How Facebook Groups Became a Bizarre Bazaar for Elephant Tusks

In West Bengal’s Jaldapara, reformed poachers are helping crack down on rhino horn trade
https://scroll.in/article/880596/in-west-bengals-jaldapara-reformed-poachers-are-helping-crack-down-on-rhino-horn-trade

As Tigers Become Rarer, Poachers Are Targeting Lions

USAID Wildlife Asia report highlights what’s behind Thai demand for ivory, tiger parts
http://www.nationmultimedia.com/detail/national/30347059

Borneo’s last remaining orangutans threatened by illegal logging, despite government protection
https://www.independent.co.uk/environment/orangutan-borneo-illegal-logging-indonesia-peatlands-forests-fires-greenpeace-a8384676.html

New technology leads to the arrest of eight people suspected of trafficking wildlife parts

What Do You Know About Illegal Fishing?
HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND IRREGULAR MIGRATION

UN sanctions for people smugglers in Libya in global first
BBC: 8 June 2018
Six men who allegedly made fortunes from buying and selling vulnerable migrants have been hit by United Nations sanctions in an unprecedented response to the international slave trade.

Network to combat migrant smuggling and people trafficking in Afghanistan
Marion MacGregor – Info Migrants: 6 June 2018
To help the Afghan government implement a 2017 law against people trafficking, the International Organization for Migration and the U.S. Agency for International Development brought together a network of organizations to stop human trafficking and migrant smuggling in Afghanistan.

For more on this theme:
Europe Accused of Failing Migrants in Libya as Human Traffickers Thrive

Activists: Human Trafficking a Danger in Nigeria

African migrants are braving a new route to Europe. But old perils remain.
https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/african-migrants-are-braving-a-new-route-to-europe-but-old-perils-remain/2018/06/06/51251e60-3dac-11e8-955b-7d2e19b79966_story.html

Revealed: How illegal immigrants are now ‘paying thousands of pounds to be smuggled into Britain via the Irish border’ by flying from Paris to Dublin to evade cross-Channel security
PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

INTERNET GOVERNANCE

Cyber Sovereignty and the PRC’s Vision for Global Internet Governance
Elliott Zaagman – The Jamestown Foundation: 5 June 2018

While Western nations worry about privacy and security on the internet, China has been promoting an idea of “cyber sovereignty” that eliminates the very problems the West is facing. But adopting China’s way of cyber governance has grave implications for global internet freedom.


For more on this theme:

(Europe) Over 500 guests attend European Dialogue on Internet Governance in Tbilisi
http://agenda.ge/news/101874/eng

(Africa) Internet governance will create robust internet economy for Africa – NCC

(Nigeria) Nigeria Internet Governance Forum 2018 Holds In Abuja

INTERNET FREEDOM

Are Chinese Youth Desperate for Uncensored Internet Access?
Justin Higginbottom – OZY: 4 June 2018

China’s censors go into overdrive around the June 4 anniversary of the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre. But research shows they don’t have as much to worry about as they might think — half of Chinese youth wouldn’t use uncensored internet even they got it for free.

https://www.ozy.com/acumen/are-chinese-youth-desperate-for-uncensored-internet-access/87020

For more on this theme:

(Kenya) New Cybercrime Law Opens the Door to Privacy Violations, Censorship

(Uganda) Netizen Report: Uganda’s WhatsApp Tax and SIM Card Regulations Will Make It Harder to Stay Connected

(China) Unpublished Chinese censorship document reveals sweeping effort to eradicate online political content
PRIVACY AND SECURITY

EU: Data Protection Rules Advance Privacy
Human Rights Watch: June 2018

The international nongovernmental organization Human Rights Watch believes the new European Union General Data Protection Regulation law enhances privacy and will prompt other countries to improve the protection of people’s personal information.


For more on this theme:
(U.S.) Deterring cyber attacks: old problems, new solutions

(U.S.) Views of AI, robots, and automation based on internet search data

(Europe) Yahoo’s EU regulator orders privacy changes over data breach

CYBER STATECRAFT DEVELOPMENT

The Cybersecurity 202: North Korea may be even less likely to give up hacking than nukes
Derek Hawkins – The Washington Post: June 2018

While the world is watching what will happen with North Korea’s nuclear weapons programs, a force just as destructive is flying under the radar – the country’s cyber attack abilities.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/powerpost/paloma/the-cybersecurity-202/2018/06/01/the-cybersecurity-202-north-korea-is-even-less-likely-to-give-up-hacking-than-nukes/5b10233e1b326b492dd07f18/

For more on this theme:
(Global) Stop treating cyber like a ‘boutique technical issue’: report

(U.S.) State Department Outlines Plans for Cyberattack Deterrence, Open Internet
https://www.meritalk.com/articles/state-department-outlines-plans-for-cyberattack-deterrence-open-internet/
PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

Google and Cuba close to finalizing agreement to expand internet access on the island
Nora Gámez Torres – Miami Herald: 6 June 2018

Google is working closely with the government of Cuba to expand internet access within the small island nation.

For more on this theme:
(U.S.) Should developing cybersecurity talent be the next public-private partnership?
(Europe) European SMEs at risk of cyberattacks

PROTECTION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

China backed off from hacking US companies - now it's at it again
Tim Johnson – Stuff: 8 June 2018

Researchers at CrowdStrike, a threat intelligence firm, warn that after a lull in attacks against U.S. businesses, China is once again attempting to steal intellectual property.

For more on this theme:
(U.S.) We Need Stronger Online Piracy Laws
https://www.newsmax.com/finance/georgementz/stronger-online-piracy-laws/2018/05/31/id/863455/
(Global) What Damage Actually Occurs When Companies Do Not Properly Secure Their Intellectual Property And Other Sensitive Data?
(Global) How your stolen data ends up on the Dark Web marketplace
CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING

Cyberattacks Are ‘Ticking Time Bombs’ for Germany
Sumi Somaskanda – The Atlantic: 4 June 2018

Germany is worried that its weak digital infrastructure and tendency toward postwar-era pacifism leaves the country vulnerable to a devastating cyber attack.

https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2018/06/germany-cyberattacks/561914/

For more on this theme:

(India) India vulnerable to cyber attacks but doesn’t have capacity to deal with it: Home Secretary

(Africa) How a pan-African network of cyber activists has been strengthening democracy online

(India) Hyderabad to create cyber warriors for the world
https://telanganatoday.com/hyderabad-create-cyber-warriors-world

COMBATING TERRORISM AND CYBER CRIME

Instead of Kicking Them Out, New System Tricks Cyber Attackers into Sharing Their Secrets
Kenny Walter – R&D Magazine: 31 May 2018

Sandia National Laboratories, a federally funded research center in Washington, D.C., has developed a security system to isolate cyber criminals in a copy of a breached environment and then gather as much information from them as possible.


For more on this theme:

(Global) “Threat-hunting” teams are being called upon to combat cyber crime

(Global) Cryptocurrencies spark cybercrime gold rush

(Global) Cybercrime Is Skyrocketing as the World Goes Digital
https://www.darkreading.com/cloud/cybercrime-is-skyrocketing-as-the-world-goes-digital/a/d-id/1331905
INFORMATION SHARING

Top health lawmakers voice concern about HHS’s implementation of cyber law
Olivia Beavers – The Hill: 5 June 2018
Congress is taking the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to task because of problems with the department’s cyber security threat report, which is required by the Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act of 2015.

For more on this theme:
(U.S.) Cybersecurity Is a Team Sport, DHS Official Says
(U.S.) Threat indicator data needs a wide net, experts say
(New Zealand) New Zealand’s Government Communications Security Bureau expands cyber defence service

CYBER PROTECTION OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

The Future of Cyber Threats: When Attacks Cause Physical Harm
Anna Rudawski, Alexis Wilpon and David Kessler – New York Law Journal: 1 June 2018
Recent cyber attacks have moved beyond the simple theft of data or denial of service and are now seeking to damage systems or cause a complete shutdown of vital functions.

For more on this theme:
(U.S.) Strengthening the Cybersecurity of Federal Networks and Critical Infrastructure
(Nigeria) Worries as MDAs, others shun ONSA cyber security infrastructure
(U.S.) Pipeline Security and Cybersecurity: Are Guidelines Enough to Protect Critical Infrastructure?
(U.S.) Energy advances cyber role
PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

ISIS

**The Islamic State “Presence” in the Sahel Is More Complicated Than Affiliates Suggest**
John Campbell – Council on Foreign Relations: 1 June 2018

The Islamic State in the Greater Sahara refers to its association with ISIS, but the relationship between the groups may not be that close. There is little evidence that the group is an extension of ISIS.

https://www.cfr.org/blog/islamic-state-presence-sahel-more-complicated-affiliates-suggest

**Keys to the cyber-caliphate: An excerpt from “Hacking ISIS”**
Malcolm Nance and Christopher Sampson – Salon: 4 June 2018

In this excerpt from the book, *Hacking ISIS: How to Destroy the Cyber Jihad*, the authors explain how a special-operations raid in Syria netted an ISIS database that gave great insight into the group’s finances.


*For more on this theme:*

**Niger Islamic State hostage: ‘They want to kill foreign soldiers’**
https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/jun/05/hostage-niger-islamic-state-group-they-want-to-kill-foreign-soldiers

**British teenager convicted of terror plot at museum as part of all-female cell**

**ISIS training camp for children uncovered in Syria (video)**

**ISIS threat hangs over Russia World Cup**
https://www.straitstimes.com/world/europe/isis-threat-hangs-over-russia-world-cup

**United Nations begins investigation of Islamic State war crimes in Iraq**

**What a Small ISIS Cell in Trinidad is Teaching SOUTHCOM**

**ISIS resurgence more than likely in Iraq**

**ISIS: The new emerging threat for Pakistan**
http://kashmirnarrator.com/isis-the-new-emerging-threat-for-pakistan/

**Senior officers deny return of Unruly ISIS: They can’t come here**
TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

Iran pays Hezbollah $700 million a year, US official says
Joyce Karam – The National: 5 June 2018

Iran’s support for Hezbollah is more than three times as much as previously estimated — upward of $700 million a year, according to U.S. experts.
https://www.thenational.ae/world/the-americas/iran-pays-hezbollah-700-million-a-year-us-official-says-1.737347

Despite its divisions, Boko Haram is no weaker
Omar S. Mahmood – Institute for Security Studies: 5 June 2018

Though Boko Haram split into two factions, and the Nigerian government has declared victory, violence around the Lake Chad region in 2017 showed a significant increase over 2016.
https://issafrica.org/iss-today/despite-its-divisions-boko-haram-is-no-weaker

For more on this theme:

Pentagon strikes al Qaeda’s Somalia affiliate

Al Shabaab targeting Northeastern, Coast during Ramadhan – police
https://www.the-star.co.ke/news/2018/06/07/al-shabaab-targeting-northeastern-coast-during-ramadhan-police_c1769773

‘An Opportunity for the Taliban’
https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2018/06/afghanistan-ceasefire/562283/

The Taliban’s legacy in Afghanistan has plundered women’s basic human rights

The obvious solution for Hamas

Hezbollah and Iran ‘to stay in Syria until it is liberated’

Why does Boko Haram remain a regional threat in the Lake Chad Basin?

Al Qaeda more widespread and dangerous than ever, warns former FBI agent Ali Soufan

Family terrorism is Southeast Asia’s newest threat, defense officials warn
RADICALIZATION AND MESSAGING

ISIS Group Claims More Than 10K Twitter Accounts Used for Propaganda in Past 16 Months
Bridget Johnson – PJ Media: 3 June 2018

As the physical caliphate declines, a pro-ISIS group claims its “cyber brigades” have pushed ISIS content in nearly 10,000 Twitter accounts and over 4,000 Facebook accounts during the past 16 months.

https://pjmedia.com/homeland-security/isis-group-claims-more-than-10k-twitter-accounts-used-for-propaganda-in-past-16-months/

Prison: A Training Ground for Terrorists
Scott Stewart – Stratfor: 5 June 2018

Overcrowding and mixed populations of criminals and jihadists make prison grounds ripe for spreading extremist ideology. The pending release of hundreds of convicted extremists over the next few years, coupled with the potential for many newly converted to be released, will likely overburden government forces and pose a major threat across the West.

https://worldview.stratfor.com/article/prison-training-ground-terrorists

For more on this theme:

Using Internet search data to examine the relationship between anti-Muslim and pro-ISIS sentiment in U.S. counties
http://advances.sciencemag.org/content/4/6/eaao5948.full

Radicalism Intensifies on Campuses since ISIS Declaration

ISIS Claims ‘Soldier’ in Belgium Attack Was Lured to Terror Group in Prison
https://pjmedia.com/homeland-security/isis-claims-soldier-in-belgium-attack-was-lured-to-terror-group-in-prison/

Jihadi Networks in Switzerland: Regional Clusters and their Transnational Links

Former Enemies Band Together to Convert Radicalized Terrorists
https://www.voanews.com/a/4424860.html

Compounding Violent Extremism? When Efforts to Prevent Violence Backfire

Flanders turns to imams for prisoner deradicalisation
http://www.brusselstimes.com/belgium/justice/11544/flanders-turns-to-imams-for-prisoner-deradicalisation

Albania’s CVE battle for ‘hearts and minds’ is not over
FOREIGN FIGHTERS

**Former ISIS Fighter Coordination Center Planned in Albania**

*Exit: 5 June 2018*

Bulgarian Prime Minister Boyko Borissov announced that a coordination center for former ISIS fighters returning to the Balkans will be built in Albania.


*For more on this theme:*

- [Wives and children of Iraq’s ISIS fighters live in limbo](http://www.rudaw.net/english/middleeast/iraq/02062018)
- [Targeted killings of Canadian ISIS members cloaked in secrecy, but officials discussed issue](https://globalnews.ca/news/4252329/targeted-killings-canadian-isis/)
- [All foreign forces must leave Syria](https://gulfnews.com/opinion/editorials/all-foreign-forces-must-leave-syria-1.2230649)
- [British jihadis who had children while fighting for the Islamic State should be allowed to return to the UK with their families, says university lecturer](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-5797267/UK-obliged-let-jihadis-families-return-says-university-lecturer.html)

COUNTERTERRORISM STRATEGIES

**UK Counterterrorism Policy Needs to Look Beyond Borders**

*Edward Marsh – Fair Observer: 7 June 2018*

The United Kingdom recently launched an update of its counterterrorism strategy. While it addresses current threats within the country, it lacks an overseas plan for attacking the root causes of terrorist activities, says the nonprofit media group Fair Observer.


*For more on this theme:*

- [Operation Roundup in Syria Continues to Target ISIS Terrorists](https://www.defense.gov/News/Article/Article/1541533/operation-roundup-in-syria-continues-to-target-isis-terrorists/)
- [WOTR Podcast: Counterterrorism With Partner Countries: Promise or Peril?](https://warontherocks.com/2018/06/wotr-podcast-counterterrorism-with-partner-countries-promise-or-peril/)
- [Exclusive look behind the scenes at NYPD, FDNY counterterrorism drill](http://abc7ny.com/exclusive-look-at-nypd-fdny-counterterrorism-drill/3566584/)
CONSEQUENCE MANAGEMENT

WATER SECURITY

Sustainable Water, Resilient Communities: The Challenge of Erratic Water
Rebecca Lorenzen – Wilson Center: 7 June 2018
Climate change and an increase in natural disasters are dramatically impacting water security. Countries must step up with plans that protect water sources.

Mapped: How global warming and land-use change threaten water security worldwide
Daisy Dunne – Carbon Brief: 16 May 2018
Satellite data over the past 15 years indicates that the world’s water supply has diminished greatly, drawing into question future water security. The findings show a “clear human fingerprint” on the global water supply.

For more on this theme:

Iraq must act to ward off water security crisis
http://www.arabnews.com/node/1317461

Water security essential to sustainability worldwide

Special report: Al Ain farm tackles food and water security by pairing fish with watermelons

FIU and UNESCO tackle global water issues
https://news.fiu.edu/2018/05/fiu-and-unesco-tackle-global-water-issues/123357

India must treat groundwater as a common resource, not private property

Water Shortages: China’s Unrecognized Threat

Securitising water
https://dailytimes.com.pk/248474/securitising-water/

After Cape Town, five other water-scarce regions to watch
https://reliefweb.int/report/world/after-cape-town-five-other-water-scarce-regions-watch