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COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

Sudan’s toppled president Omar al-Bashir charged with corruption
Al Jazeera: 13 July 2019

Sudan’s public prosecutor has charged ousted President Omar al-Bashir with corruption. The announcement came more than two months after the military toppled al-Bashir on April 11 following months of protests against his 30-year rule.


Protesters Demand Resignation Of Haitian President Over Corruption Allegations

Thousands of demonstrators denouncing corruption have called for the resignation of Haitian President Jovenel Moïse over the reported misuse of funds.


For more on this theme:

Hacking Corruption: Tech Tools to Fight Graft in the Americas

The Costs of Trong’s Crusade Against Corruption in Vietnam

OGP Summit: Fighting corruption and promoting inclusion — this is how
https://voices.transparency.org/ogp-summit-fighting-corruption-and-promoting-inclusion-this-is-how-b9172f-cd8264

Romania: Where corruption begins before birth. Recent gains are only the beginning

Patriotic Highway: A Tale of Justice and Corruption in Kosovo

Russia’s Top Auditor Kudrin Blasts Corruption in Legal System

Millennials urged to help fight corruption
https://www.manilatimes.net/millennials-urged-to-help-fight-corruption/565614/

Fight against corruption in Latvia: Anti-corruption group regrets lack of progress
**DRUG TRAFFICKING**

*Why López Obrador’s Vow to Decriminalize Drugs Won’t Help Mexico*

Deborah Bonello – OZY: 10 June 2019

While decriminalizing certain drugs is a step in the right direction — converting the issue from a criminal matter to one of public health — it is not enough to help Mexico’s drug-related violence. The government also needs to tackle the supply and demand side of the illicit market, eradicate corruption and improve the country’s justice system.


**Drug Policy and Deprivation of Liberty**

*Global Commission on Drug Policy: June 2019*

The Global Commission on Drug Policy released a position paper focusing on the “perfect storm” created by current drug policies, incarceration, prison overcrowding and inadequate health care for people who use drugs. Detention fuels the spread of infectious diseases, exacerbates problems of reintegration and results in a loss of dignity for millions around the world.

http://www.globalcommissionondrugs.org/position-papers/deprivation-of-liberty

*For more on this theme:*

**Brazilian Judges Advocate Teenage Employment to Free Youths from Drug Trafficking**


**The Inside Story of Europe’s First Narco-State**


**‘County Lines’: The Modern Cyber Slaves of Britain’s Drug-Trafficking Networks**


**‘El Chapo’: the last of the cartel kingpins?**


**European Drug Report 2019 directly contrasts US drug crisis, tells a story of relative calm**


**Brazil’s Bolsonaro enacts tough drug policy changes**

https://apnews.com/e6f3607897bc4f2080cc585082c5140e

**Legal pot will take years to make dent in black market: Drug policy researcher**

https://www.bnnbloomberg.ca/marijuana/video/legal-pot-will-take-years-to-make-dent-in-black-market-drug-policy-researcher--1699603

**Meet the Women Fighting for Gender Equality in Addiction Treatment**


**The next battle in the War on Drugs will be fought over psychedelics**

TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

Researchers and customs officials unite to fight wildlife trafficking using eDNA
David Klinges – Mongabay: 6 June 2019

A new environmental DNA test has been successfully deployed to detect the difference between common, legally traded American eels and illegally trafficked European eels, which as juveniles look the same to the naked eye.


The Opioid Crisis Is Killing Trees Too
Lyndsie Bourgon – The Atlantic: 5 June 2019

Across the Americas, high timber prices are fueling the illegal logging of old-growth trees in state and national parks.


For more on this theme:
Philippines Passes Bill Requiring Students to Plant 10 Trees Before Graduating
https://www.sciencealert.com/philippines-passes-bill-requiring-graduating-students-to-plant-10-trees-before-graduating

Life on front line with DNA detectives who are elephants’ last hope against poachers

159 murdered birds: Here’s how wildlife crime sleuths solved one of California’s most baffling poaching cases

Satellite images used to find environmental crimes

Malaysia’s New Illegal Fishing Task Force in the Spotlight

Japan’s otter-smuggling underbelly fuelled by cute animal cafe craze

Sierra Leone Takes Steps to Tackle Illegal Fishing

Australia should give victims a voice in tackling environmental crimes

Illegal Logging Killing Philippine Forests – OpEd
HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND IRREGULAR MIGRATION

**Slave labor is used to catch fish. This tech aims to stop it.**
*Sarah Gibbens – National Geographic: 13 June 2019*

A pioneering electronic mapping tool can detect possible human trafficking, forced labor and illegal fishing by commercial ships on the high seas, according to a new report by ocean conservation experts. “As global fish stocks are declining, these commercial fishers are having to travel farther,” says Oceana analyst and illegal fishing expert Lacey Malarky. “It’s resulting in operators resorting to IUU [illegal, unreported, and unregulated] fishing and human rights abuses to protect costs.”

https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/2019/06/slave-labor-used-to-catch-fish-but-tech-may-help/

**Is Human Trafficking in Japan Coming to an End?**
*Thisanka Siripala – The Diplomat: 8 June 2019*

With lofty promises of safety during the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, Japan is working hard to eradicate human rights and trafficking issues as it struggles to meet tight deadlines.


*For more on this theme:*

- **Lao Officials Strengthen Anti-Trafficking Controls at Border Crossings**

- **How Enigma Is Using Big Data to Fight Human Trafficking**

- **Human trafficking, slavery rife in Pacific tuna supply chains**

- **Will Malaysia finally address the human trafficking of Rohingya?**

- **Players of many parts: The evolving role of smugglers in West Africa’s migration economy**

- **This is how much it costs to be smuggled over the US border**
  https://qz.com/1632508/this-is-how-much-it-costs-to-cross-the-us-mexico-border-illegally/

- **Pressure grows on Africa to take back its migrants**
  https://issafrica.org/iss-today/pressure-grows-on-africa-to-take-back-its-migrants

- **View on Africa: Europe's revolving migrant door**
PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

INTERNET GOVERNANCE

The UN Panel on Digital Cooperation: An Agenda for the 2020s
Wolfgang Kleinwächter – CircleID: 13 June 2019

The United Nations’ Panel on Digital Cooperation has presented a report that includes a “declaration of digital interdependence.” It lays out the risks posed by the exploitative behavior of private companies and the stifling of necessary regulation.

http://www.circleid.com/posts/20190613_the_un_panel_on_digital_cooperation/

For more on this theme:

(Global) The internet is broken. But we can’t just repair it — we need to rebuild it
https://qz.com/1631441/the-splinternet-exists-and-we-need-to-fix-it/

(China, Global) The Chinese and non-Chinese internet are two worlds. Here’s what it’s like to use both

(GLOBAL) Tackle the ‘Splinternet’
https://www.chathamhouse.org/expert/comment/tackle-splinternet

INTERNET FREEDOM

To end mass protests, Sudan has cut off Internet access nationwide. Here’s why.
Steven Feldstein – The Washington Post: 13 June 2019

Disruptions to access escalated over the past week, and Sudan is now almost entirely cut off from the internet after forces violently attacked and dispersed protesters.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2019/06/13/end-mass-protests-sudan-has-cut-off-internet-access-nationwide-heres-why

For more on this theme:

(Europe) The EU Will Be The End Of Free Speech Online
https://www.forbes.com/sites/kalevleetaru/2019/06/06/the-eu-will-be-the-end-of-free-speech-online/#2778240756a8

(Ethiopia) Ethiopian Government Shuts Down The Internet To Prevent Cheating In Exams

(Liberia) Social media blocked as Liberians protest ‘corruption and creeping dictatorship’
PRIVACY AND SECURITY

The Next Big Privacy Hurdle? Teaching AI to Forget
Darren Shou – Wired: 12 June 2019

Privacy is an issue on everyone’s minds these days. But one key concern has been largely ignored — once data is fed into artificial intelligence (AI) and machine-learning algorithms, we no longer have a means to control it.

https://www.wired.com/story/the-next-big-privacy-hurdle-teaching-ai-to-forget/

For more on this theme:
(Russia) Tinder and the Russian Intelligence Services: It’s a Match!

(U.S.) States’ Internet Privacy Fight with FCC Grows, With No End in Sight

(U.S., Europe) Why Is America So Far Behind Europe on Digital Privacy?

CYBER STATECRAFT DEVELOPMENT

Telegram boss links cyber attack during HK protests to China
BBC: 13 June 2019

The chief executive of Telegram, a popular encrypted messaging app, said it experienced a “state actor-sized” cyber attack and pointed to China as the likely country of origin.


For more on this theme:
(Iran, U.S.) Threat from Iran is not military, but cyber war
http://www.arabnews.com/node/1507236

(Japan) Japan Prepares for Olympic-level Cybersecurity

(Global) States Must Explain When a Cyber Attack Might Draw a Violent Reprisal
PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

Electric Grid Security Unites Public and Private Sectors
Jim McKay – Government Technology: 11 June 2019

Public and private sectors must work together to protect the electrical grid from cyber attacks and physical attacks.


For more on this theme:
(U.S.) Strong government-industry partnerships keeping electric grid secure

(Uganda) Government should embrace ICT to create jobs for the youth

PROTECTION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

U.S. ramping up offensive cyber measures to stop economic attacks, Bolton says
Shannon Vavra – CyberScoop: 11 June 2019

According to U.S. National Security Advisor John Bolton, the United States is considering offensive cyber measures to repel the theft of commercial intellectual property.


For more on this theme:
(U.S., Global) Infringing intellectual property — an issue for brand safety and security
https://www.information-age.com/intellectual-property-brand-security-123483033/

(Global) Protecting IP from the insider threat
https://www.financialdirector.co.uk/2019/06/13/protecting-ip-from-the-insider-threat/

(China, U.S.) China has targeted ‘every top US company’, says CrowdStrike chief
https://www.telegraph.co.uk/technology/2019/06/13/china-has-targeted-every-top-us-company-says-crowdstrike-chief/
CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING

The Next Big Phones Could Bring a Billion People Online
Shira Ovide – Bloomberg: 7 June 2019

Sometimes a simple but effective invention can reshape the world. In this case, a $20 smartphone with a long-life battery could give internet access to half of humanity.


For more on this theme:

(India) Social media brings ‘paradigm shift’ to governance in India

(Caribbean) Internet services, particularly to the Grenadines, expected to improve with installation of subsea fibre optic cable

COMBATING TERRORISM AND CYBER CRIME

AI Chatbot helps The Cyber Helpline fight nationwide cyber crime
RealWire – Virtual Strategy Magazine: 11 June 2019

United Kingdom startup Greenshoot Labs has launched a platform that helps to diagnose the type of cyber attack experienced and the extent of the damage. “The Cyber Helpline” uses artificial intelligence to talk to cyber crime victims in understandable language rather than cyber security slang.


For more on this theme:

(Global) Intelligent tools are only part of the cyber crime solution

(U.S.) Cybercrimes camp starts at Notre Dame

(Global) Cybercrime Innovation: Tackling Emerging Threats and Vulnerabilities
http://www.circleid.com/posts/20190607_cybercrime_innovation_tackling_emerging_threats_vulnerabilities/
INFORMATION SHARING

Consumer Privacy: Changes to Legal Framework Needed to Address Gaps
U.S. Government Accountability Office: 11 June 2019

In the U.S., there is no federal privacy law that protects consumer information from the collection and sale of that information by private companies. With collection and sharing on the rise, privacy concerns are growing.

For more on this theme:
(Singapore, U.K.) Regulators cooperate to combat global cyber threat

(Global) The International Association of Certified ISAOs (IACI) Announces Hakdefnet as a Strategic Security Member

(U.S.) Despite new internet privacy law, your private data can still be sold and shared without consent

CYBER PROTECTION OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Securing critical infrastructure through cyber innovation
National Research Council Canada – CISION: 10 June 2019

The Canadian Institute for Cybersecurity-NRC Cybersecurity Collaboration Consortium opened in Fredericton, New Brunswick. This innovative hub will conduct cyber security research for critical infrastructure with a focus on internet of things security, artificial intelligence, human-computer interaction and natural language processing.

For more on this theme:
(U.S.) Strengthening the Energy Sector’s Cyber Preparedness

(U.S.) Protecting our critical infrastructure in the digital age

PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

ISIS

ISIS may be defeated on battlefield but ideology ‘alive and well’: Canadian commander

Brig. Gen. Colin Keiver, Canada’s former commander in Iraq, said that while ISIS is no longer a “quasi-state,” it is “still alive and well in the background ... seeking to expand their influence and undermine the governments of Iraq and other nations.”

Islamic State expands reach in Afghanistan, threatening West

ISIS may have lost its territory in the Middle East, but for five years it has been drawing fighters from across Asia to its Afghan “province.”
https://www.apnews.com/0a4f38c0ead84ecba2e0102c8b3b0b40

For more on this theme:

Isis claims sub-Saharan attacks in a sign of African ambitions
https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/jun/06/isis-claims-sub-saharan-attacks-sign-africa-ambitions-islamic-extremist

Islamic State in Afghanistan aims to attack US, general says
https://www.apnews.com/bf98da4837904e9bbfb3f0f8d20bb085

Exploiting Borders in the Sahel: The Islamic State in the Greater Sahara

Why Islamic State Recruitment Is Thriving On Telegram

ISIS steps up attacks against Syrian Army near Palmyra
https://www.almasdarnews.com/articleisis-steps-up-attacks-against-syrian-army-near-palmyra/

Islamic State arrival in Mozambique further complicates Cabo Delgado violence
https://thedefensepost.com/2019/06/13/islamic-state-mozambique-cabo-delgado-iscap/

ISIS setting fire to crops in Syria and Iraq out of ‘cold-blooded revenge,’ monitor says

Islamic State in Iraq is not over yet

Islamic State’s Sinai Affiliate Remains a Destabilizing Force in Egypt
TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

Trump's Iran Crackdown Isn't Enough to Stop Hezbollah
Emanuele Ottolenghi – Foreign Policy: 11 June 2019

While some experts report that Hezbollah is feeling the pinch after the U.S. placed sanctions on its benefactor, Iran, others point out that Hezbollah has a very large income from transnational crime. With the cocaine trade booming, Hezbollah is unlikely to have much financial difficulty unless someone goes after that income as well.

https://foreignpolicy.com/2019/06/11/trumps-iran-crackdown-isnt-enough-to-stop-hezbollah/

Boko Haram deploys lots of women suicide bombers. I found out why
Jordan N. Galehan – The Conversation: 13 June 2019

After the massive kidnappings conducted by Boko Haram, it has many women among its ranks. The terrorist group has put those women to use as suicide bombers.


For more on this theme:

Analysis: Al Qaeda eulogizes Zakir Musa, as his successor is named

The Hunt: Terrorists are simplifying their attacks

Defeating the Islamic State of Idlib
https://nationalinterest.org/feature/defeating-islamic-state-idlib-62452

Senior al Qaeda official praises Taliban's 'victory' in Afghanistan

Afghan government unconditionally releases hundreds of Taliban prisoners

Time to consider negotiating with al-Shabaab in Somalia?
https://issafrica.org/iss-today/time-to-consider-negotiating-with-al-shabaab-in-somalia

Al-Shabab Hold Sports Festival

Central Africa's Deadly Hot Zone Of Disease And Insurgency – Analysis

Hamas calls for saving truce as Israeli-Palestinian tensions rise
RADICALIZATION AND MESSAGING

IntelBrief: YouTube Making Moves to Combat Extremism Online
The Soufan Center: 10 June 2019

YouTube says it is cracking down on extremist channels and videos. Previously, social media companies focused on jihadist-related content. Now, other hateful and violent ideologies are being targeted.

https://thesoufancenter.org/intelbrief-youtube-making-moves-to-combat-extremism-online/

The neuroscience of terrorism: how we convinced a group of radicals to let us scan their brains
Nafees Hamid and Clara Pretus – The Conversation: 12 June 2019
A team of researchers has scanned the brains of supporters of a radical Islamist group while asking them about their sacred values and willingness to fight and die for the cause.

https://theconversation.com/the-neuroscience-of-terrorism-how-we-convinced-a-group-of-radicals-to-let-us-scan-their-brains-114855

For more on this theme:

Caleb Cain was a college dropout looking for direction. He turned to YouTube.

The Faults Beyond Our Algorithms

Twitter’s top policy exec said there’s “no doubt” that some social media content contributes to radicalization
https://www.vox.com/recode/2019/6/10/18660088/twitter-radical-vijaya-gadde

OSCE explains radicalisation of migrants in Europe

Fuelling the Fire: Weaponizing Islam in Europe

Call for Businesses to Help Prevent Radicalization
https://www.hstoday.us/channels/global/call-for-businesses-to-help-prevent-radicalization/

It’s time to dismantle the ecosystem of radicalisation: Srinagar must not shy away

UK Muslim prison gangs dubbed the ‘brotherhood’ fuel radicalisation fears
https://www.thenational.ae/world/uk-muslim-prison-gangs-dubbed-the-brotherhood-fuel-radicalisation-fears-1.873244

Former neo-Nazi and counter-violent extremism experts issue warning to Australia
FOREIGN FIGHTERS

Despite Trump’s Guantánamo Threats, Americans Who Joined ISIS Are Quietly Returning Home
Robin Wright – The New Yorker: 11 June 2019

The U.S. government has confirmed that it repatriated eight U.S. citizens — two women and six children — who were with the Islamic State in Syria. But instead of sending them to Guantánamo Bay, the Justice Department has opted to try them in court or even release or resettle some.


For more on this theme:
Returning Foreign Terrorist Fighters in Germany: An Assessment of the Threat and Policy Options
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BNayMlHdfJM&feature=youtu.be&t=1

Kosovo is trying to reintegrate ISIL returnees. Will it work?

Reintegrating ISIS militants and families is a global problem

France and Netherlands to repatriate 14 children of ISIS adherents from Syria
https://thedefensepost.com/2019/06/10/france-netherlands-repatriate-isis-children-syria/

Repatriate or reject: What countries are doing with IS group families

COUNTERTERRORISM STRATEGIES

Rethinking strategy to stop the spread of terrorism

Most of Africa’s large-scale security operations have failed to reach into the rural areas where radicalism is easily spread and violent extremism runs rampant. Such operations can no longer afford to ignore these critical areas.


For more on this theme:
New Rules of Engagement Needed as ISIS Remains and Adapts

US Southeast Asia Counterterrorism Approach in the Headlines With New Philippines Program
CONSEQUENCE MANAGEMENT

WATER SECURITY

Himalayan glacier melting threatens water security for millions of people
Carolyn Gramling – ScienceNews: 29 May 2019
A new study by the British Antarctic Survey in Cambridge, England, said glaciers from Asia’s mountain ranges, including the Himalayas, are melting much faster than previously thought and could threaten regional water security within a few decades.
https://www.sciencenews.org/article/himalayan-glacier-melting-threatens-water-security-millions-people

Our water cycle diagrams give a false sense of water security
University of Birmingham – Science Daily: 10 June 2019
Water cycle diagrams currently used for education and research purposes are dangerously out of date and give a false sense of water security.
https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2019/06/190610111525.htm

For more on this theme:
Research on water security does not reflect water scarcity reality

Will running out of clean water increase the risk of war?
https://metro.co.uk/2019/05/16/will-running-out-of-clean-water-increase-the-risk-of-war-9488948/

How water scarcity triggers the refugee crisis – and what tech can do to solve it

In the Face of Climate Change: Challenges of Water Scarcity and Security in MENA

Visualising the world’s water security threat
https://geographical.co.uk/places/mapping/item/3204-water-security

DOE Launches Wave Energy Water Desalination Prize Competition
https://www.energy.gov/articles/doe-launches-wave-energy-water-desalination-prize-competition

Better water resources management can address water security challenges in Vietnam
https://moderndiplomacy.eu/2019/06/01/better-water-resources-management-can-address-water-security-challenges-in-vietnam/