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COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

When rules are not enough to curb corruption
The Christian Science Monitor: 7 June 2019

Strong institutions and the rule of law are not enough anymore to deter corruption. According to a Transparency International report, punishment alone doesn’t deter corruption.


Experiencing corruption makes you more likely to protest against it… up to a point
Anna Ford – Phys.org: 13 June 2019

Across the world, people are standing up against corruption. But only some people, and in specific places. What makes one person more likely to protest than another?


For more on this theme:

Constitutional Court declares e-declaration for anti-corruption activists unconstitutional

New commander takes on corruption “mess” in Afghan police

Agenda for new government: Insulating anti-corruption architecture

Can social media help anti-corruption drives? A Nigerian case study

Exploring the causes of persistent corruption

Quebec’s anti-corruption unit lacking skills and training to fulfill mission: report

African forum in Egypt calls for ‘strategic plan’ to fight corruption
http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-06/14/c_138141340.htm

Chinese Agricultural Projects in Venezuela Produce Corruption, Not Food

Hundreds arrested at anti-police corruption protests in Russia | Video
DRUG TRAFFICKING

Making medical marijuana legal does not prevent fatal opioid overdoses, study says
Carla K. Johnson – Los Angeles Times: 10 June 2019

No, medical marijuana legalization cannot prevent opioid overdose deaths. That is the takeaway from a new study by Dr. Chelsea Shover of the Stanford University School of Medicine published in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

The Real Failure of Southeast Asia’s Drug Wars
David Hutt – The Diplomat: 18 June 2019

Across Asia, wars against drugs are making headlines. But these wars achieve questionable results, more often serving political purposes rather than actually reducing the drug trade.

For more on this theme:
Is this the new Medellin Cartel?
https://colombiareports.com/is-this-the-new-medellin-cartel/
Can Cape Verde keep drug traffickers out?
https://issafrica.org/iss-today/can-cape-verde-keep-drug-traffickers-out
Dark Web Drug Sellers Dodge Police Crackdowns
Philippines goes after drug trade in ‘dark web’
A Booming Meth Trade Challenges Southeast Asia’s Approach to Drug Policy
Blood on their hands: The decadent drug users who don’t care about dark origins
https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/blood-hands-decadent-drug-users-16491263
Illinois Legalizes Recreational Marijuana, Posing Challenges For Employers
The UK is the world’s largest exporter of medicinal cannabis
As overdose deaths rise, Pompeo says the U.S. struggles to halt drug trafficking
The Hidden Wealth of Drug Pilots and Accountants in Colombia
Rocking Horse Exposes Argentina’s Rising Synthetic Drug Market
TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

New EU initiative to counter surging wildlife cybercrime
International Fund for Animal Welfare – Cision: 14 June 2019

A coalition of animal welfare organizations and law enforcement agencies is cracking down on criminal gangs that use the internet for trafficking wildlife in the European Union.


Wildlife trafficking in Peru
Deutsche Welle: 15 June 2019

All sorts of endangered animals from Peru’s infamous rainforest market are for sale as bush meat or as pets. Animal conservationists are trying to stop the trade before it’s too late.


For more on this theme:
Ghana Struggles to End Illegal Gold Mines

Thailand steps up efforts to fight illegal fishing

Within Sight: An End To Illegal Fishing In The Pacific By 2020

This Amazon bird's eggs are black-market gold. Here's why.
https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/2019/06/hyacinth-macaw-egg-laundering-for-pet-trade/

Choosing the Right Messenger
https://www.traffic.org/publications/reports/choosing-the-right-messenger/

Designing Effective Messages
https://www.traffic.org/publications/reports/designing-effective-messages/

Poaching threatens South America's only bear species
https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/2019/05/andean-paddington-bears-poached-in-peru/

A Former Military Operative Sets Sights on Poachers
https://www.spiegel.de/international/world/a-former-military-operative-goes-after-poachers-in-kenya-a-1270280.html

Wildlife officials begin collecting data on pet shops, aquariums

EU initiative to counter surging wildlife cybercrime

How a UW geneticist is saving elephants with poop
https://www.kuow.org/stories/saving-elephants
HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND IRREGULAR MIGRATION

U.S. human trafficking report: China, Iran, N. Korea worst offenders
Nicholas Sakelaris – UPI: 20 June 2019

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Ivanka Trump released the “2019 Trafficking in Persons Report” at a State Department ceremony at which Pompeo called human trafficking “a stain ... on all of humanity.”


Full report: 2019 Trafficking in Persons Report

European activists fight back against ‘criminalisation’ of aid for migrants and refugees

A recent case in the U.S. shed light on the practice of criminalizing humanitarian aid. But Europe has faced this problem since a vague European Union aid policy went into effect 17 years ago. Critics of the law are starting to fight back.


For more on this theme:
On a Greek Island That Welcomed Migrants, Residents and Refugees Feel Abandoned

Could foreign aid help stop Central Americans from coming to the U.S.? Here’s what you need to know.

Anti-human trafficking apps increase awareness and action from churches to truck stops

Multilateral peace operations and the challenges of irregular migration and human trafficking (June 2019)

Combating human trafficking in Germany

There are 70 million refugees in the world. Here are 5 solutions to the problem
PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

INTERNET GOVERNANCE

**Cyber Governance: More Spam Than Substance?**  
Kyle L. Evanoff – Council on Foreign Relations: 14 June 2019

Most of the initiatives attempting to shape cyber governance come up empty when it comes to actual solutions.

https://www.cfr.org/blog/cyber-governance-more-spam-substance

*For more on this theme:*

(Global) **Putting children at the centre: is re-designing the digital environment possible?**  

(Global) **How Social Media Companies Need To Address Disinformation Globally**  
https://www.forbes.com/sites/michaelposner/2019/06/16/how-social-media-companies-need-to-address-disinformation-globally/#2d043fbf3f9f

(Global) **Balkanising the World Wide Web into the ‘splinternet’**  
https://www.phnompenhpost.com/opinion/balkanising-world-wide-web-splinternet

INTERNET FREEDOM

**When Chinese students were given the uncensored internet**  
Qin Chen – Inkstone: 20 June 2019

China is raising a society full of people who don’t seem to care about their limited access to information, according to a recent report. “Citizens with access to uncensored internet may not seek out politically sensitive information, due to lack of interest in politics, fear of government reprisal, and unawareness or distrust of foreign news outlets,” the researchers wrote.


*For more on this theme:*

(Sudan) **Despite Internet Blockade, Fresh Images of Sudan’s Escalating Unrest Trickle Out**  

GLOBAL) **Internet blackouts: The rise of government-imposed shutdowns**  

(Russia) **VPN Providers Defy Order to Connect to Russia’s Internet Censor**  
PRIVACY AND SECURITY

**How tech companies compare at protecting your digital rights**
*World Economic Forum – The European Sting: 14 June 2019*

The 2019 Ranking Digital Rights Index evaluates 24 of the world’s most powerful internet, mobile and telecommunications companies on their publicly disclosed commitments and policies affecting freedom of expression and privacy.


Full report:

**2019 Ranking Digital Rights Corporate Accountability Index**
https://rankingdigitalrights.org/index2019/

For more on this theme:

*(ASEAN)* **ASEAN’s data governance challenge**

*(Global)* **Why cybersecurity should be standard due diligence for investors**

*(Global)* **Why Organizations Still Struggle With Privacy**

CYBER STATECRAFT DEVELOPMENT

**U.S. Escalates Online Attacks on Russia’s Power Grid**

The United States is “stepping up digital incursions into Russia’s electric power grid,” according to *The New York Times*. The operations involve the "deployment of American computer code inside Russia’s grid and other targets," supposedly to warn Russia against conducting further hostile cyber operations against U.S. critical infrastructure and to build the capability to mount its own robust cyber operations against Russia in the event of a conflict.


For more on this theme:

*(Global)* **Can a Divided World Cope With the Risks of the Digital Revolution?**

*(Ireland)* **New national cyber security strategy due as soon as funding rises**

*(Australia)* **It’s time to be realistic—the Federal Government has failed on cyber security**
PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

How Public-Private Sector Partnerships Help the FBI Manage Cybersecurity Threats
FedTech: 19 June 2019

FBI special agents discuss how important it is to work with public/private partnerships to counter cyber security threats.

For more on this theme:
(Europe) TC-INF: exchange of views with internet companies
(U.S.) The Public-Private Partnership That’s Working to Make New York City a Global Hub of Cybersecurity Talent
(U.S.) A hiring initiative for cyber

PROTECTION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Audit: USPTO’s mismanagement of active directory poses ‘significant’ cyber risk
Dave Nyczepir – fedscoop: 18 June 2019

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office put intellectual property at risk by failing to manage its active directory and protect the critical information technology assets hosting it.

For more on this theme:
(U.K.) Intellectual Property Office puts the spotlight on the music rights data problem
(U.S., U.K., China) Huawei could eavesdrop on millions of calls in the UK, US cyber official warns
https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2019/06/19/huawei-could-eavesdrop-millions-calls-uk-us-cyber-official-warns/
(U.S.) Bolton: China Continuing Cyberattacks on Government, Private Networks
CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING

Israel Joins World Bank to Increase Cybersecurity in Developing Countries
Jewish News Syndicate: 17 June 2019

Israel joined an international fund of the World Bank to help developing countries adopt cybersecurity capabilities, the state’s Ministry of Economy and the Israel National Cyber Directorate announced.


For more on this theme:
(Southeast Asia) How to measure progress in e-governance

(Rwanda) African internet exchange points association to establish secretariat in Rwanda

(ASEAN) Career Comeback Programme for Women in Cyber Risk Management

COMBATING TERRORISM AND CYBER CRIME

Fewer cyber threats detected here last year, but online crime still rising: CSA report
Hariz Baharudin – The Straits Times: 18 June 2019

The Cyber Security Agency of Singapore says the number of common cyber threats in Singapore decreased in 2018. But Singapore is still a target for cyber attacks by advanced actors.


For more on this theme:
(GLOBAL) Forthright handling of cybercrime essential to improved results

(U.S.) Inside the FBI’s Fight Against Cybercrime
https://www.darkreading.com/attacks-breaches/inside-the-fbis-fight-against-cybercrime/d/d-id/1335014

(Ireland) PSNI opens state-of-the-art centre to tackle cyber crime
INFORMATION SHARING

Bill to Strengthen Cybersecurity Coordination with SLGs Introduced
MeriTalk: 20 June 2019

Bipartisan legislation has been introduced to strengthen cyber security coordination between the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and state and local governments. The act would “encourage national cybersecurity watchdogs to share information regarding cybersecurity threats, vulnerabilities, breaches and resources to prevent and recover from cyber-attacks with states and localities who are increasingly targeted by bad actors,” according to the bill’s co-sponsors.


For more on this theme:

(U.S., Global) Pulling Strategic Value Out of Your Cyberthreat Intelligence Practices

(Bulgaria, NATO) Bulgaria Joins NATO Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence
https://www.novinite.com/articles/197891/Bulgaria+Joins+NATO+Cooperative+Cyber+Defence+Centre+of+Excellence

(Europe) Time for Europe to take cyber-security seriously...and save the world

CYBER PROTECTION OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Infrastructure critical to Middle East economies face rising cyber attacks
Alkesh Sharma – The National: 17 June 2019

Cyber attacks in the Middle East are on the rise, and many of them are targeting the oil and gas sector, according to a new report from the cyber security firm DarkMatter.

https://www.thenational.ae/business/technology/infrastructure-critical-to-middle-east-economies-face-rising-cyber-attacks-1.875526

Full report:
Cyber Security Report – June 2019

For more on this theme:

(U.S.) How the U.S. is trying to improve election security ahead of 2020

(U.S., Global) ‘Most dangerous’ hackers targeting U.S. utilities — report
https://www.eenews.net/stories/1060575609

(U.S., Global) Countering industrial cyberthreats with secure, standards-based, licensed wireless networks
PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

ISIS

**After years of war and drought, Iraq's bumper crop is burning**
Ahmed Aboulenein and Maha El Dahan – Reuters: 20 June 2019

After several years of drought, farmers in Syria and Iraq were looking forward to the bountiful harvests that this season’s ample rainfall made possible. Across northern Iraq and Syria, however, seemingly endless fires are decimating their wheat fields just before the harvest.

https://af.reuters.com/article/commoditiesNews/idAFL8N23O1JA

**Islamic State Comes for South Asia**

Kunwar Khuldune Shahid – The Diplomat: 18 June 2019

ISIS has turned its focus from the Middle East to South Asia. Declaring “provinces” in Pakistan and India, the group has claimed responsibility for recent attacks. ISIS’ operation capacity is not that of the scale it was in the Middle East, but it certainly has been able to appeal to recruits across the region.

https://thediplomat.com/2019/06/islamic-state-comes-for-south-asia/

*For more on this theme:*

Are the Insurgencies Truly Over?
https://www.meforum.org/58684/are-the-syria-insurgencies-truly-over

‘I Want To Go Back’: The Yazidi Girls Who Did Not Want To Be Rescued From ISIS

How to Manage the Threat of an Expanding Islamic State in Africa

Islamic State’s South Asia Pivot: Rhetoric or Reality?
https://www.geopoliticalmonitor.com/islamic-states-south-asia-pivot-rhetoric-or-reality/

New ISIS Cybersecurity Bulletin Shows Interest in Microsoft BlueKeep Bug

Islamic State’s Sinai province renews allegiance to Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi

Jihadists in West Africa renew allegiance to Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi

Islamic State Claims Responsibility For Deadly Prison Riot In Tajikistan
TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

Boko Haram Factionalization: Who are Islamic State in West Africa Province (ISWAP) Fighters in Niger and Chad?
Jacob Zenn – The Jamestown Foundation: 14 June 2019

The factional dynamics of terrorist groups in Africa were clearly seen in the lines of succession of Boko Haram and its splinter group that maintains an affiliation with ISIS. The leaders of the two factions, supposed rivals, may not be as acrimonious as previously thought.


Scorn for US peace plan brings Hamas, Hezbollah closer
Ahmad Melhem – Al-Monitor: 11 June 2019

Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah called for Lebanon and Palestinians to work together against the U.S. proposed peace plan. Hamas lauded the statement and agreed that it could be a strong counter to the peace plan.


For more on this theme:
The hidden lives of children of the Afghan Taliban

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

Hamas Leader Says Israel Isn’t Upholding Cease-Fire Terms

Iran has invested in allies and proxies across the Middle East. Here’s why they matter now.

Suspected Al Qaeda financier impervious to its austere creed
https://www.thenational.ae/world/suspected-al-qaeda-financier-impervious-to-its-austere-creed-1.877109

The National Intelligence Service takes interest in new group linked to Al-Shabaab

Women of war — Boko Haram wives

Taliban delegation holds talks in China as part of peace push
**RADICALIZATION AND MESSAGING**

**Europol report details Islamic State propaganda for women**

*Mike Corder – The Associated Press: 14 June 2019*

ISIS is targeting women from the millennial generation as it seeks new recruits after the fall of its so-called caliphate, the European Union’s police agency said. In a report on ISIS propaganda focused on women, Europol said that this could “pave the way” for a change in the role of female jihadists in future terror organizations.

[https://www.apnews.com/d30861b1f7734f03aeb12cbb605076a3](https://www.apnews.com/d30861b1f7734f03aeb12cbb605076a3)

Full report:

**Women in Islamic State propaganda**


**US to launch new program to fight extremism in PH**

*Ritchel Mendiola – Asian Journal: 8 June 2019*

A joint Filipino-American program aimed at stifling recruitment efforts by Islamic State-linked militants in the southern Philippines will be launched within weeks.


*For more on this theme:*

**As radicalisation grows, Narendra Modi government puts in place stronger measures**


**Radicalization comes closer home**


**Radical Muslim Inmates Rule UK Prisons**

[https://www.algemeiner.com/2019/06/19/radical-muslim-inmates-rule-uk-prisons/](https://www.algemeiner.com/2019/06/19/radical-muslim-inmates-rule-uk-prisons/)

**What are Mechanisms for preventing and countering Violent Extremism in BiH?**


**To protect and slur**


**‘Dangerous’ Muslim Brotherhood fatwa app in Apple Store’s top 100 downloads**

FOREIGN FIGHTERS

Months after the fall of ISIS, Europe has done little to take back its fighters

Europe has washed its hands of nearly 800 Islamic State foreign fighters imprisoned in Syria and Iraq, even as U.S. and Kurdish authorities beg them to take them back, The Washington Post reports. Even bringing back the wives and children of those fighters is an unpopular idea in Europe.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/europe/after-caliphate-collapsed-europe-has-done-little-to-take-back-those-who-joined-isis/2019/06/20/4bab9cc2-8bc4-11e9-b6f4-033356502dce_story.html

Repatriating ISIS Families: An Opportunity to Show that “Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism” Can Work

The willingness of governments to repatriate and reintegrate ISIS fighters and their families has been slow in coming. But taking care of their own citizens outside of the criminal justice system is critical to addressing the needs of these individuals and preventing recruitment by extremists in the future.


For more on this theme:

New suffering for the children of the ISIS caliphate as hunger and sickness spread

How Europe Is Handing Off Its ISIS Militants to Iraq
https://foreignpolicy.com/2019/06/15/how-europe-is-handing-off-its-isis-militants-to-iraq/

Why are Europeans Afraid of ISIS Trials at Home?

Washington Expects to Repatriate 20 ISIS Suspects

The Spanish ISIS women who are caught in a legal limbo
https://elpais.com/elpais/2019/06/18/inenglish/1560848590_179213.html

The complex issue of returning Islamic State fighters
CONSEQUENCE MANAGEMENT

FOOD SECURITY

Drought in Africa leaves 45 million in need across 14 countries
Obi Anyadike – The New Humanitarian: 10 June 2019

For the third consecutive year, a widespread drought is threatening tens of millions of people in 14 countries across Africa. While rains have finally arrived in some areas, they came too late for many crops, and food prices are spiking.

For more on this theme:
U.N. Aid Chief Warns of Looming ‘Horror’ as Somalia Again Faces Famine
https://www.nytimes.com/2019/06/05/world/africa/africa-famine-united-nations-somalia.html

Prioritizing Psychological Safety as a Driver of Food Security and Resilience

Food security is a huge threat to Singapore — is urban farming the answer?
https://www.greenbiz.com/article/food-security-huge-threat-singapore-urban-farming-answer

Open data and food security

Gender and food security in Fiji: A community-based gender analysis in Macuata Province, Vanua Levu

Women surest bet in quest for food security
https://www.standardmedia.co.ke/article/2001329414/women-surest-bet-in-quest-for-food-security

Rice export may create food scarcity at home during disaster, warns GM Quader