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COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

Romanian Court Convicts Top Politician in Test of Judicial System


Liviu Dragnea, the leader of Romania’s ruling party, was convicted of abuse of power and handed a 3 1/2-year sentence. Dragnea is expected to appeal.


Tech tools take on corruption fight

Tallen Harmsen – ITWeb: 21 June 2018

Technology has never been more capable of helping countries overcome corruption through transparency. Computer software and artificial intelligence can sift through mountains of data in the blink of the eye to reveal corrupt individuals and governments.

https://www.itweb.co.za/content/lwrKxq3J9VYMmg1o

For more on this theme:

Kiev’s ‘Corruption Park’ showcases a crystal falcon and other spoils of disgraced officials


My goal is to defeat corruption in Ukraine


Vietnam arrests more oil executives amid corruption crackdown


DPP seeking FBI collaboration in war against corruption


Hungarians confident in EU, wary of corruption at home


Armenia’s revolutionary government steps up anti-corruption purge

https://eurasianet.org/s/armenias-revolutionary-government-steps-up-anti-corruption-purge

More women in government leads to less corruption, new research shows


Understanding the economic cost of corruption in Kenya


Corruption is fuelling cash-in-transit heists

https://issafrica.org/iss-today/corruption-is-fuelling-cash-in-transit-heists

For more on this theme:

More women in government leads to less corruption, new research shows

DRUG TRAFFICKING

U.S. Spent $8.6 Billion On War on Drugs in Afghanistan And It's Still Losing, Report Says
Jason Lemon – Newsweek: 15 June 2018

In 15 years in Afghanistan, no counternarcotics effort undertaken by the United States, its partners or the Afghan government has led to sustained reductions in poppy cultivation or opium production, according to a report by the special inspector general for Afghanistan. The report included details of the drug trade in Afghanistan and outlined the failure of the U.S. to deter production.

Full report:
Counternarcotics: Lessons from The U.S. Experience In Afghanistan

Canada just legalized marijuana. That has big implications for US drug policy.
German Lopez – Vox: 21 June 2018

Following in Uruguay’s footsteps, Canada just become the second nation in the world to fully legalize marijuana, a move that will have ramifications throughout the Western world.


For more on this theme:
Sweden’s zero-tolerance drug policy should be reviewed: narcotics officer
https://www.thelocal.se/20180614/swedens-zero-tolerance-drug-policy-should-be-reviewed-narcotics-officer

Violence Hand in Hand With Drug Trafficking in Mexico

Colombia Clamps Down on Narcotrafficking

Innovation in the War on Drugs: Narcosubs

A New Wave Of Meth Overloads Communities Struggling With Opioids

Govt making anti-drug law with harsher punishment
https://www.thedailystar.net/frontpage/govt-making-anti-drug-law-harsher-punishment-1593046

Lebanon Is Protecting Hezbollah’s Cocaine Trade in Latin America
TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

Live animals, meat, ivory, wood seized in trafficking stings
Sylvie Corbet – The Associated Press: 21 June 2018

A monthlong operation recovered thousands of animals and tons of timber from smugglers and illegal loggers. The operation involved police, customs and wildlife authorities in 92 countries.
https://apnews.com/abb53f5d1921485dae23dde73d40950d

Technology can help solve some of society’s pressing social and environmental problems
Julian David – Computer Weekly: June 2018

Technological innovations, along with the will to stop wildlife trafficking, can help solve problems that were previously insurmountable.

For more on this theme:

National Geographic Awards Innovators Combating Illegal Fishing

Who Will Save the Elephants?

Netizens urged to report illegal trade in wildlife

More tigers live in US back yards than in the wild. Is this a catastrophe?

How rhino-trek safaris may help save them

The last hope for the elephants

The government should introduce more stringent laws to curb wildlife poaching activities

Plans for pangolin refuge in South Africa as trafficking industry grows

This DNA database for trees will help track illegal logging
https://www.fastcompany.com/40586162/this-dna-database-for-trees-will-help-track-illegal-logging
HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND IRREGULAR MIGRATION

Meet the virtual vigilantes who bust human traffickers from their laptops
Inna Lazareva – Reuters: 19 June 2018

When law enforcement agencies are short-staffed or underfunded, it can be difficult to catch human traffickers through the dark web. That’s why hackers are working to fill in the gaps, despite lingering skepticism about vigilantism.


Atlanta Startup Trust Stamp Is Using Biometrics to Identify Victims Of Cross-Border Human Trafficking
Holly Beilin – Hypepotamus: 20 June 2018

Attorneys general from the United States and Mexico are poised to unveil a new facial recognition system designed to identify the victims of human trafficking. Families can upload photos of missing people into the system, which will scan for matches with images caught on surveillance feeds.


For more on this theme:

Human trafficking in humanitarian crises
http://globalinitiative.net/ht_criess/

Airlines Globally Are Signing Up To Fight Human Trafficking, Up To 60% Of Which Involves Air Travel

Funding restrictions for human trafficking grants can prevent victims from getting justice
http://thehill.com/opinion/criminal-justice/392584-funding-restrictions-for-human-trafficking-grants-can-prevent

Trafficking is lower risk for gangs
https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/trafficking-is-lower-risk-for-gangs-mslps2g5h

How traveling across the Sahara became a crime

High risk, high return: how Europe’s policies play into the hands of people-smugglers

Migrant smuggling nets criminals $7bn a year
http://www.theweek.co.uk/94444/migrant-smuggling-nets-criminals-7bn-a-year

Nigeria’s Human Traffickers Are Working the World Cup
https://www.thedailybeast.com/nigerias-human-traffickers-are-working-the-world-cup
PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

INTERNET GOVERNANCE

How will the internet fragment as governments try to control the digital space?
Ido Vock – WikiTribune: 10 June 2018

Your internet user experiences change dramatically based on your location. With nations censoring, shutting down and increasingly tightening their grip over the internet, will the idea of the internet as a globally accessible space be sustained?


For more on this theme:

(Europe, Global) EURODIG Tbilisi 2018: Positioning in the New Complexity of the Global Internet Governance Ecosystem

(China) Beijing Wants to Rewrite the Rules of the Internet

(Global) ICANN reveals how it responded to GDPR

INTERNET FREEDOM

How China censors the net: by making sure there's too much information
John Naughton – The Guardian: 16 June 2018

In the analog world, censorship meant state control over all communications media coupled with fear of punishment for breaking the rules. In today’s digital world, China manages the internet as a form of censorship.


For more on this theme:

(China) Chinese Regime Tightens Social Media Control With Investigation on College Students

(Cambodia) Cambodia’s New Online Media Directive Criticized as ‘Censorship’

(Turkey) Censorship rife in Turkey as snap election is called
PRIVACY AND SECURITY

Security: The IoT is destroying legal concept of privacy warns in-depth report
Chris Middleton – Internet of Business: 15 June 2018

The internet of things has dramatically changed how people view privacy, shifting the legal concept, according to a recent report.

For more on this theme:
(U.S., Global) Internet Users Worry About Online Privacy but Feel Powerless to Do Much About It
https://www.entrepreneur.com/article/314524

(Europe, U.S.) New European Rules May Give US Internet Users True Privacy Choices for the First Time

(Global) ’90s hacker collective man turned infosec VIP: Internet security hasn’t improved in 20 years
https://www.theregister.co.uk/2018/06/18/l0pht_chris_wysopal_interview/

CYBER STATECRAFT DEVELOPMENT

Israel cyberczar drops hints about country’s new security initiative
John Leyden – The Register: 21 June 2018

At the Israel Cyber Week conference, Israel leaked plans of a “state-level cyber shield.” According to the country’s new cyber czar, the shield would mitigate public and private threats.
https://www.theregister.co.uk/2018/06/21/israel_cybersecurity_strategy/

For more on this theme:
(U.S.) U.S. Cyber Policy, Beyond Ones and Zeros

(Europe, Global) What the global Internet’s stakeholders can learn from Europe’s new data law

(China, U.S.) Talk of US cyber war on China ridiculous
http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1107699.shtml
PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

**OPT Enhances Digital Access across French Polynesian Islands with SES Networks**

*Business Wire: 20 June 2018*

The Office des Postes et Telecommunications of French Polynesia (OPT) is working with the satellite operator SES Networks to bring faster internet speeds to the islands.


*For more on this theme:*

(U.S.) **AT&T & City of San Jose Form Smart Cities Public-Private Partnership**


(Europe) **Kaspersky pulls plug on Europol joint venture after EU parliament vote to ban its software**


(U.S.) **How city, federal officials are planning for smart cities**


PROTECTION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

**EU votes for memes ban and censorship machines — what now?**

Már Másson Maack – TNW: 20 June 2018

The European Union has passed an initial vote in favor of the Copyright Directive, legislation that experts say will threaten the internet. The EU’s Legal Affairs Committee voted in favor of the legislation — but it needs parliamentary approval to become law.


*For more on this theme:*

(China, U.S.) **Chinese hacking group resurfaces, targets U.S. satellite companies and systems**

https://www.cyberscoop.com/symantec-thrip-satellite-hacking-trojans/

(China, U.S., Global) **Connecting the Dots Between Cybersecurity and Trade Wars**


(China, U.S.) **DoD Officials: Chinese Actions Threaten U.S. Technological, Industrial Base**

CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING

Despite ‘Digital India’ push, just 25% Indians use Internet: Pew survey
IANS – National Herald: 22 June 2018

We talk about digital India, but with only 25 percent of adults using the internet, India remains largely offline. A survey by the Pew Research Center revealed that the global median is 75 percent of adults using the internet, with India having among the lowest usage in the world.


For more on this theme:
(Australia) Local defence cyber capabilities growing but so are the threats
(Africa) Building cyber infrastructure vital to skills development in Africa, here’s why
(U.S.) New facility to increase capability and capacity of nation’s Cyber Mission Force

COMBATING TERRORISM AND CYBER CRIME

These dogs sniff out cybercrime
Alfred Ng – CNET: 11 June 2018

Dogs at the federal and local level are being trained to find hidden electronic devices such as mobile phones, hard drives and flash memory cards by identifying a chemical compound found within them called triphenylphosphine oxide, or TPPO.


For more on this theme:
(Global) Hackers now have international coalitions; we need the same to fight back
https://venturebeat.com/2018/06/16/hackers-now-have-international-coalitions-we-need-the-same-to-fight-back/
(U.S.) An Exclusive Look into the 2018 US State of Cybercrime Survey Results
(Global) Artificial intelligence: the new cyber crime threat
https://www.ifsecglobal.com/artificial-intelligence-threat/
INFORMATION SHARING

Homeland Security’s New Approach to Cyber Risk Management
Amanda Ziadeh – Government CIO Media: 15 June 2018

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security might introduce a shared critical warning method for cyber threats in addition to its established information-sharing system.


For more on this theme:

(U.S., Global) Private sector needs a little sumthin’ sumthin’ to get it sharing threat intel – US security chap
https://www.theregister.co.uk/2018/06/20/international_panel_cyber_week/

(Global) Fortinet-Interpol Team to Help Prevent Cyber Crimes, Privacy Threats Via Info Sharing

(Global) RSK CEO Diego Gutierrez: How Bitcoin Will Transform Information Sharing
https://bitsonline.com/rsk-diego-gutierrez-bitcoin-information-sharing/

CYBER PROTECTION OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

MPs: CNI Attacks Are UK’s Biggest Cyber-Threat
Phil Muncaster – Infosecurity Magazine: 19 June 2018

Nearly two-thirds of the members of Parliament polled consider the compromise of critical national infrastructure to be the biggest cyber threat to the United Kingdom, according to a survey commissioned by the cyber consultant NCC Group.


For more on this theme:

(U.S.) Cyber X-Games 2018 focuses on critical infrastructure

(Europe, Global) Destructive Nation-State Cyber Attacks Will Rise, Say European Infosec Pros

(U.S.) Parsons Survey Shows Lack of IT/OT Integration to Address Critical Infrastructure Cyber Gaps
Program on Terrorism and Security Studies (PTSS)

ISIS

US-led coalition destroys Islamic State narcotics cache — including 300,000 so-called ‘Jihadi pills’
Kyle Rempfer – Military Times: 19 June 2018

United States allies in the war against ISIS have destroyed a massive cache of narcotics previously held by the jihadist group in Syria, the Pentagon said. The haul of Captagon, an amphetamine-type narcotic often used by militants to stay awake and alert during prolonged battles, was worth an estimated $1.4 million, the U.S. military said.


TERROR ‘EXCHANGE PROGRAMME’ ISIS commanders Sneaking jihadis into Nigeria from Syria to Train Them for Possible Attacks on Britain
David Willetts – The Sun: 18 June 2018

ISIS leaders are sneaking battle-hardened extremists from Syria into Nigeria, The Sun newspaper reported, saying some of the fighters are reportedly sent to the Middle East for training in a "chilling exchange programme."

https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/6557479/isis-sneaking-jihadis-to-nigeria-terror-exchange-programme/

For more on this theme:

U.S., Afghan Offensive Crushes Islamic State at Area Close Pakistan

Terror attacks double around the globe since the emergence of Islamic State

Ramadan Rage 2018: Islamic State Defeat Brings Holy Month Deaths Down 45 Percent

Boys Without Fathers and the Islamic State
https://clarionproject.org/fathers-day-islamic-state/

ISIS Proving Elusive by Tunneling, Staying in Small Groups, Blending Into Towns

Officials fear ISIS may deploy bomb-carrying drones
http://www.wsfa.com/story/38453431/officials-fear-isis-may-deploy-bomb-carrying-drones

ISIS evolves virtually as it loses on land
TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

Al-Shabab Militant Group Getting Lucky, Not Stronger in Somalia
Jeff Seldin – Voice of America: 20 June 2018

Somalia’s most dangerous terror group is likely not getting any stronger despite conducting a series of deadly attacks, including one that claimed the life of a U.S. special operations soldier earlier this month. The assessment, by U.S. military and counterintelligence officials, runs contrary to the conclusions of some analysts and comes as al-Shabab has been flexing its military might.


How Islamist militant groups are gaining strength in Africa
Sam Ellis – Vox: 21 June 2018

This video focuses on the destabilization of countries in Africa due to the presence of numerous Islamic militant groups, many of which are affiliated with ISIS and al-Qaida.


For more on this theme:
Europol: Terror threat in the EU is rising

India bans new offshoots of al-Qaeda, Islamic State under anti-terror law

U.S. commander warns against rapid Afghan exit, saying Islamic State and al-Qaida may merge

Al-Shabab kidnaps Somali children to fill its ranks. Parents pull kids from school or flee to protect them.

Boko Haram’s Sick Ploy to Turn Girls Into Suicide Bombers

Mozambique’s own version of Boko Haram is tightening its deadly grip

The Taliban has successfully built a parallel state in many parts of Afghanistan, report says
RADICALIZATION AND MESSAGING

Study finds factors underlying current rise in radicalization among European youth
News Medical: 21 June 2018

A multidisciplinary review of radicalization produced a psychological and social model to better understand the contributing factors and triggers that could provide a framework for prevention, according to the journal European Psychiatry.


America’s Terrorism Problem Doesn’t End with Prison—It Might Just Begin There
Lorenzo Vidino and Seamus Hughes – Lawfare: 17 June 2018

While several European nations already face terrorism threats linked to their penal system, the authors of this article warn that the United States will be facing a similar problem unless something is done to mitigate the threat.

https://www.lawfareblog.com/americas-terrorism-problem-doesnt-end-prison%E2%80%94it-might-just-begin-there

For more on this theme:

India, EU should work to defeat terrorism, radicalization

De-radicalization expert urges authorities to charge Canadian former ISIS fighter
https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/charge-former-isis-fighter-1.4717337

How to Stop Radicalization of Children on a Global Scale

USC Price agrees to study homegrown extremism with Parisian university
https://news.usc.edu/144755/usc-price-agrees-to-study-homegrown-extremism-with-parisian-university/

Federal “Countering Violent Extremism” Grants Focus on Minority Communities — Including in Schools

Security forces work to stop recruitments at funerals of militants in Kashmir

Watch | ‘US is Falling Behind on Using Soft Power to Counter Violent Extremism’
https://thewire.in/video/watch-us-is-falling-behind-on-using-soft-power-to-counter-violent-extremism

As the threat from ISIS evolves, so must our counter approach

Need for major CVE programme to engage with Muslim community
FOREIGN FIGHTERS

Few Islamic State fighters return but home-grown attacks rise, Europol says
Reuters: 20 June 2018

A big influx of returning fighters has not materialized, but there is an increasing threat of home-grown attacks, according to Europe’s police agency.


For more on this theme:

Canadian Government Welcomes Back Islamic State Jihadists

G7 countries eye threat of foreign fighters’ return
https://thearabweekly.com/g7-countries-eye-threat-foreign-fighters-return

European Isil jihadists released under secret deals agreed by UK’s allies in Syria

COUNTERTERRORISM STRATEGIES

Fighting The Islamic State By, With And Through: How Mattered As Much As What – Analysis

The author offers examples and lessons learned in the fight against ISIS in Iraq while he and his team worked closely with Iraqi authorities, encouraging them to take the lead.


For more on this theme:

Iraq: Change Approach to Foreign Women, Children in ISIS-Linked Trials

Coalition, Partners Continue Progress Against ISIS in Iraq, Syria

‘Hunting ISIS’ highlights American ‘volunteers’ who fought terror group

Counterterrorism Spending Tops $2.8 Trillion Since 9/11