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COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

Corruption Crisis: How Criminal Politicians Poisoned the Dominican Republic
Ramon Collado – The National Interest: 24 June 2019
Criminals are acting with impunity due to the corruption in the Dominican Republic. Because of political and judicial corruption, criminals feel empowered to commit crimes that range from armed robberies and contract killings to illegal arms trading and human trafficking.
https://nationalinterest.org/feature/corruption-crisis-how-criminal-politicians-poisoned-dominican-repub-
llic-64091

Malaysia's Defense Corruption Challenge in the Spotlight
Prashanth Parameswaran – The Diplomat: 18 June 2019
Corruption in Malaysia is nothing new, especially within its defense agencies. The new government is working to manage several scandals, including a case involving missing helicopters.

For more on this theme:
Going, Going, Ghazni: Ancient Afghan City Crumbling Under Weight Of Neglect, Corruption
.html

How Possible Corruption Charges Could Threaten Benjamin Netanyahu's Tenure
https://www.npr.org/2019/06/14/732863477/how-possible-corruption-charges-could-threaten-benjamin-ne-
tanyahus-tenure

Billionaire Czech prime minister's business ties fuel corruption scandal

Nepal is mired in corruption and it is unlikely to get better any time soon
get-better-any-time-soon.html

How mafia and corruption scandals rocked Italian football
https://www.thelocal.it/20190626/how-mafia-and-corruption-scandals-rocked-italian-football

Keeping corruption on the global agenda
https://voices.transparency.org/keeping-corruption-on-the-global-agenda-1e94f47c58bd

Corruption, neglect cripples Pakistan’s public health system
tem-190625102232216.html

Inside the corruption allegations plaguing Malta

Nothing Fishy In The Fish Can: Critics Slam Bulgarian Corruption Probe
DRUG TRAFFICKING

Medical marijuana laws’ economic impact on organised crime
Evelina Gavrilova, Takuma Kamada and Floris Zoutman – The London School of Economics and Political Science: 27 June 2019

Medical marijuana laws don’t just help the sick and suffering, they also serve to make trafficking less profitable, thereby reducing the benefits to criminal enterprises.

Interview: Illicit drugs trafficking: The African perspective
Hawa Suleiman Issah – AfricaNews: 27 June 2019

Once just a transit point from drug-producing nations to drug-consuming nations, Africa is now in the grip of an addiction epidemic that has spread throughout the continent. And some politicians are deep in the traffickers’ pockets.

For more on this theme:

Where it all begins: Colombia’s peasant farmers and the Pacific drug trade

Argentina Struggles to Kick Cocaine Habit: Report

Narco-trafficking and petrol: a quarter of Colombia’s fuel goes to make cocaine
https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/jun/14/quarter-of-colombias-fuel-cocaine-industry

Tired of Smuggling Humans Over the Border, Mexican Cartels Are Refocusing on Drugs

White House: Colombian drug production down in 2018

More illegal drugs infiltrating China
https://www.asiatimes.com/2019/06/article/more-illegal-drugs-infiltrating-china/

Drug trade is narco-terrorism, says forensic medical expert

University of Alabama study may be key to winning war on drugs

Fentanyl at the click of a mouse

https://www.bloomberg.com/opinion/articles/2019-06-27/cocaine-is-back-blame-technology-for-it
TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

**Lift 'unfair' ban on ivory trade, southern African leaders urge summit**
*Nyasha Chingono – The Guardian: 26 June 2019*

With a desire to sell their multimillion-dollar stockpiles, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Zambia, Angola and Namibia are calling on a Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species committee to temporarily lift the ban on ivory trade.


**Helping people afford healthcare has reduced illegal logging in Borneo**
*Sarah Kennedy – Yale Climate Connections: 26 June 2019*

Deforestation has run rampant in Borneo, tearing away about a third of its forests as a result of agricultural uses, fire and logging. But something as simple as providing health care has dramatically decreased illegal logging.


*For more on this theme:*

**To Fight Illegal Fishing, Countries Need Effective Port Controls**

**Labor Exploitation, Illegal Fishing Continue to Plague Asian Seas**

**Honduran Armed Forces, Guardians of Wildlife**

**Asean embarks on collaborative effort to combat the menace of wildlife trafficking**
http://www.nationmultimedia.com/detail/national/30371616

**How to save the animals**
http://www.nationmultimedia.com/detail/asean-plus/30371617

**How Hong Kong Is Enforcing Legal Trade in Shark Fins**

**Local Cambodian Patrols Seek to End Illegal Logging**

**Now, drones to keep tabs on illegal mining**

**World in Progress: DRC's dangerous illegal cobalt mines**

**Tackling unregulated, unreported fishing**
HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND IRREGULAR MIGRATION

The policy tap fallacy: Lessons from the Central Mediterranean Route on how increasing restrictions fail to reduce irregular migration flows

Mixed Migration Center: 25 June 2019

The authors suggest that restrictions meant to deter irregular migration have the opposite effect.

http://www.mixedmigration.org/resource/the-policy-tap-fallacy/

Smugglers report booming market as people try to escape Syria to Turkey


Smugglers say the market is booming for migrant families trying to cross into Turkey from the border with Syria, even though few ever reach Turkey.


For more on this theme:

Human trafficking survivors’ handbook launched


How AI is helping nonprofits and law enforcement agencies fight human trafficking


Lithuania: more needs to be done to combat human trafficking


Central Americans yearning for U.S. turn to smugglers amid Trump asylum crackdown


Border security needs intelligence and an intelligent tech approach, Hurd says

https://www.fedscoop.com/will-hurd-border-security-a-intelligence-priority/

Irregular border crossings into Canada drop by half since same time last year


Migrant children in the U.S. lack protection and services needed to ensure their wellbeing


Mexico Airline Offers Central America Migrants $1 Trips Home

PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

INTERNET GOVERNANCE

(Global) Mark Zuckerberg calls on other social networks to copy his ‘supreme court’
Laurence Dodds and Hasan Chowdhury – The Telegraph: 27 June 2019
Facebook outlined its plans for a new, independent content review board that would provide an updated framework for platform posting regulations — and a new way for users to appeal those decisions.
https://www.telegraph.co.uk/technology/2019/06/27/mark-zuckerberg-calls-social-networks-copy-su-
preme-court/

For more on this theme:
(Malaysia) Youth and Internet governance

(Global) The Global Data War Heats Up
https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2019/06/g20-data/592606/

(Global) Responding to “The Case for Regulatory Capture of ICANN”
http://www.circleid.com/posts/20190628_responding_to_the_case_for_regulatory_capture_of_icann/

INTERNET FREEDOM

How Ethiopia Controls the Internet
Ethiopia claims it shut down the internet for a week to control cheating during final exams. But this isn’t an isolated incident. Ethiopia is one of the most restrictive governments in the world when it comes to the internet.
ital-censorship-worries-remain

For more on this theme:
(Africa) The numbing experience of living through Africa’s growing internet shutdowns

(Russia) Russia Seeks Information From Network Providers Ahead Of Sovereign Internet Launch
https://www.rfert.org/a/russia-seeks-information-from-network-providers-ahead-of-sovereign-inter-
net-launch/30023839.html

(Global) An increasingly popular authoritarian tool: Shutting down the internet

(Myanmar/Burma) The Government Cut Their Internet. Will Abuses Now Remain Hidden?
PRIVACY AND SECURITY

How Biometric Data Will Shift The Privacy Conversation
Lisa Joy Rosner – Forbes: 2 July 2019

The use of biometric data is bound to be contentious as we move toward using such data more frequently. The time for the debate is now, before privacy is ignored.


For more on this theme:
(U.S.) Efforts to Craft Federal Data Privacy Bill Have Slowed

(Global) Where Security Meets Privacy in the 21st Century

(U.S., Global) How Much Is Your Data Worth to Facebook and Google? A New Senate Bill Aims to Find Out

CYBER STATECRAFT DEVELOPMENT

DOD More Assertive, Proactive in Cyber Domain

The U.S. Defense Department is moving from a more reactive to a more proactive, assertive approach to defending the nation’s interests in cyberspace against adversaries who are constantly evolving in the cyber realm.


For more on this theme:
(U.S.) Senate passes cybersecurity bill to decrease grid digitization, move toward manual control

(Global) A Response on Persistent Engagement and Agreed Competition

(U.S.) Lawmakers Seek Improved Cyber Safeguards With IoT Security Bill

(Global) Cyberspace is the new Cold War: ANALYSIS
PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

5G and enhanced data protection: Singapore maps out plans for a digital-ready future
Shawn Lim – The Drum: 1 July 2019
Singapore is implementing a slew of new initiatives toward becoming a more innovative nation. A new digital office will bring together leaders from various government and private sector organizations to collaborate on policies that promote data protection.

For more on this theme:
(U.S.) Air Force inks another IT-as-a-service deal
https://www.fedscoop.com/it-as-a-service-deal-air-force/
(Singapore) Singapore government to run another bug bounty
(U.S.) Supply Chains May Pose Weakest Security Link
https://www.afcea.org/content/supply-chains-may-pose-weakest-security-link

PROTECTION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Insider Threat Detection a Serious Problem for U.S. Businesses
Filip Truta – Security Boulevard: 1 July 2019
Businesses are discovering that it is far more difficult to protect their systems from insider threats, such as negligent or malicious employees, than to build firewalls and other tools to defend from outside threats.

For more on this theme:
(China) Beijing Intellectual Property Court runs a pilot scheme as “pre-registration of administrative cases on intellectual property rights”
(U.S., China) Trump-Xi Deal May Founder on a Patent Lack of Trust
https://www.bloomberg.com/opinion/articles/2019-06-28/china-u-s-intellectual-property-pact-needs-mu-
tual-trust
(U.S., China, Global) Genetic information is the newest front in US-China great power competition
https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/policy/defense-national-security/genetic-information-is-the-newest-
front-in-u-s-china-great-power-competition
CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING

There’s More to Cyber Than Huawei
Conrad Prince – Royal United Services Institute: 24 June 2019

An ongoing debate in the United Kingdom over the security implications of using Chinese technology in 5G telecommunications networks has been complicated by Brexit and politics. But cyber security involves a broader set of issues about the globalization of technology and how best to manage the risks that come with that.

https://rusi.org/commentary/theres-more-cyber-huawei

For more on this theme:

(Global) 6 Cyber Security Trends To Watch Going Into 2020

(EU) Europe’s call for human-centric, trustworthy AI will create more opportunities for startups

(U.S.) US wants to isolate power grids with ‘retro’ technology to limit cyber-attacks

COMBATING TERRORISM AND CYBER CRIME

Fighting Cybercrime: Data and International Cooperation Are Key
Rahul Vaidyanath – The Epoch Times: 26 June 2019

Law enforcement is being asked to keep up with increasingly savvy cyber criminals, and the only way to do that is through international cooperation and data sharing.


For more on this theme:

(EU) EU to run war games to prepare for Russian and Chinese cyber-attacks

(Europe) A glimpse into how Europe’s top cops deal with cybercrime
https://techwireasia.com/2019/07/a-glimpse-into-how-europes-top-cops-deal-with-cybercrime

(U.S., Global) Cyber Crimes Are Increasing, But Those With Cyber Insurance Are Not
INFORMATION SHARING

How sharing your DNA solves horrible crimes... and stirs a privacy debate
Laura Hautala – CNET: 2 July 2019

Data from DNA databases kept by commercial genealogy companies has helped investigators solve more than 50 cold cases involving crimes such as murder and rape. The technique, which searches the databases for matches to DNA left at crime scenes, enables investigators to narrow the list of suspects. It is part of a game-changing field in police work. But privacy questions are putting the method into question.


For more on this theme:

(Global) Why a multi-stakeholder approach is essential to our risk resiliency

(U.S.) Only 6 Non-Federal Groups Share Cyber Threat Info with Homeland Security

(U.S.) New law brings big change to IRS in IT, cyber

CYBER PROTECTION OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

The Bitcoin Bite: Iran Says Power Grid Hit By Cryptocurrency-Mining Surge

Iran noticed an unusual spike in electricity consumption that reportedly made its grid unstable and caused problems. It blamed the spike on two cryptocurrency mining farms.


For more on this theme:

(U.S.) What is the CISA? How the new federal agency protects critical infrastructure from cyber threats

(Australia) Protecting critical national infrastructure in an era of IT and OT convergence

(Sweden) Sweden’s Protective Security Act targets cyber risks
PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

ISIS AND FOREIGN FIGHTERS

**The Women Who Came Home: Kazakhstan Tries To Rehabilitate Islamic State Returnees**  

Unlike many Western nations, Kazakhstan has embraced the wives and children of ISIS members, bringing them home and putting them into extensive rehabilitation and reintegration programs.


**Suicide attacks emerge in Philippines under ISIS influence**  
Agence France-Presse: 2 July 2019

A number of apparent suicide bombings in the Philippines over the past 12 months are a worrying escalation of militancy driven by the influence of the Islamic State in Southeast Asia, security experts say.


*For more on this theme:*

**Pentagon sees Islamic State resurgence in Libya amid Tripoli fighting**  

**Women playing bigger role in Islamic State operations, Lowy warn**  

**Britain has ‘by far the highest rate of returning jihadi fighters in Europe’**  

**ISIS headed home to Indonesia**  

**No Country For Islamic State Brides**  
[https://www.rferl.org/a/no-country-for-isis-brides/30023645.html](https://www.rferl.org/a/no-country-for-isis-brides/30023645.html)

**Jihadists in the Caucasus, Philippines renew allegiance to Baghdadi**  

**ISIS has ‘completely regrouped, stronger than before’: Peshmerga chief**  
[http://www.rudaw.net/english/kurdistan/290620191](http://www.rudaw.net/english/kurdistan/290620191)

**Betrayal. Torture. Escape. An American Woman Inside the Islamic State**  

**Iraq, U.N. in talks over prosecution of Islamic State prisoners in SDF detention**  
TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

Even as it talks peace, Taliban provides safe haven to LeT, Al Qaeda in Afghanistan, says new UN report
Praveen Swami – First Post: 21 June 2019

Despite talks of peace with numerous countries, the Taliban is reportedly continuing to provide safe haven and resources to several terrorist groups operating in Afghanistan.


Al-Qaida is stronger today than it was on 9/11
Christian Taylor – The Conversation: 1 July 2019

Al-Qaida is no longer a hierarchical organization taking orders from its famous, charismatic leader, as it was on 9/11. But it is even stronger in its current form.

https://theconversation.com/al-qaida-is-stronger-today-than-it-was-on-9-11-117718

For more on this theme:
Women and Al-Shabaab’s Insurgency

How We Were Tricked into Becoming Al Shabaab Brides - Girls Narrate
https://www.kenyans.co.ke/news/41048-how-we-were-tricked-becoming-al-shabaab-brides-girls-narrate

Revealed: Boko Haram’s child army
https://spectator.us/revealed-boko-harams-child-army/

Terrorism Risk Is Declining, but a Closer Look Shows an Ominous, Evolving Threat

How to Win Friends and Wage Jihad

Palestine Is Not for Sale: Hamas Leader
http://www.english.almanar.com.lb/767967

Hezbollah’s New Drug Rehab Unit Points to Limits of US Sanctions Policy

Dialogue with Boko Haram: back on the agenda?
https://issafrica.org/iss-today/dialogue-with-boko-haram-back-on-the-agenda

Major Tussle Between Al-Qaeda, Hizbul Mujahideen and ISIS Reported in Kashmir

Boko Haram and Frustration- Aggression Theory: A Potential Explanation
RADICALIZATION AND MESSAGING

Tolerance, inclusion, interfaith and intercultural understanding key to preventing and countering violent extremism, say Mongolia conference speakers

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe: 21 June 2019

According to an interregional conference in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, efforts to prevent radicalization must promote tolerance, inclusion, interfaith and intercultural understanding.

https://www.osce.org/secretariat/423758

Kenyan Women Unite Their Voices to Prevent Extremism

Mohammed Yusuf – Voice of America: 1 July 2019

The U.S. Institute of Peace is working with Sisters Without Borders in Kenya to train members to counter violent extremism.

https://www.voanews.com/africa/kenyan-women-unite-their-voices-prevent-extremism

For more on this theme:

Central Asia Versus Online Extremism
http://centcom.unipath-magazine.com/central-asia-versus-online-extremism/

Countering the Information Invasion
http://centcom.unipath-magazine.com/countering-the-information-invasion/

Radicalization: How empathy fuels conflicts
https://www.dw.com/en/radicalization-how-empathy-fuels-conflicts/a-49379307

Are Prisons Actually Fueling Jihad?
https://www.algemeiner.com/2019/07/02/are-prisons-actually-fueling-jihad/

Innocent Victims of a Brutal War, Syria’s “Lost Generation” Can Still be Saved

Terrorist Group Using Some Madrasas In Bengal For Radicalisation: Centre

These researchers study terrorists. Sometimes, they also stumble across scoops
https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/magazine/these-researchers-study-terrorists-sometimes-they-also-stumble-across-scoops/2019/06/24/baa73ce0-8b96-11e9-8f69-a2795fca3343_story.html

Government of Canada Announces Initiatives to Address Violent Extremist and Terrorist Content Online

Understanding violent extremism
https://businessmirror.com.ph/2019/07/01/understanding-violent-extremism/
FINANCING TERRORISM

Stopping Terrorism Financing: Old Enemy, New Weapons
International Director: 3 July 2019

Faced with the growing threat of terrorist financing, banks and international organizations have new tools at their disposal to track and combat the issue, especially when it comes to virtual currencies.

https://internationaldirector.com/finance/stopping-terrorism-financing-old-enemy-new-weapons/

For more on this theme:
UN loophole on terror financing is an urgent wake-up call: The world deserves answers

‘World deserves answers from Qatar on terror financing’
https://gulfnews.com/world/gulf/qatar/world-deserves-answers-from-qatar-on-terror-financing-1.64966823

Watchdog: Pakistan Could Still Be Placed on Blacklist

COUNTERTERRORISM STRATEGIES

How Content Removal Might Help Terrorists
Joe Whittaker – Lawfare: 30 June 2019

Contrary to the popular belief that content removal is the best course of action when extremist groups post on social media, the author argues that it encourages the content producers to find new ways of posting that are harder to track. While there are significant benefits to content removal, the practice can end up helping the terrorists it’s meant to stop.


For more on this theme:
‘Counterterrorism is a long and complex process’

Singapore to set up new command centre to boost counter-terrorism capabilities

Federal Government to toughen up counter terrorism laws