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COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

Ukraine MPs back corruption court law amendment in bid for IMF aid
*Reuters*: 12 July 2018

Ukraine’s parliament has adopted a measure to expand the powers of the country’s new anti-corruption court, meeting an International Monetary Fund condition for restoring aid.


How to win the fight against corruption in Africa
*Transparency International*: 11 July 2018

Though places throughout Africa have made progress in the fight against corruption, much remains to be done. The African Union has designated 2018 the year for “winning the fight against corruption.”

https://www.transparency.org/news/feature/how_to_win_the_fight_against_corruption_in_africa

For more on this theme:

Colombia, U.S., Mexico, Panama seek to combat Venezuelan corruption

Romania’s president removes chief anti-corruption prosecutor
https://www.reuters.com/article/us-romania-corruption/romanias-president-removes-chief-anti-corruption-prosecutor-idUSKBN1JZ0N3

AMLO’s Bet on Fighting Corruption: Same Old, Same Old?

Corruption Now A Culture In Nigeria – Magu

Civil group presents anti-corruption bill to Abkhaz parliament
https://jam-news.net/?p=112604

The inconsistent transparency policy at the anti-corruption commission

Tehran Official Says Iran Has ‘Epidemic’ of Municipal Corruption
https://www.voanews.com/a/Iran-municipal-corruption/4477783.html

Sierra Leone President Targets Banks in Anti-Corruption Push

Corruption frustrating American investors in Uganda – Ambassador
DRUG TRAFFICKING

Sri Lanka to hang drug dealers as country becomes major hub for traffickers
Chris Irvine – Fox News: 11 July 2018

Sri Lanka’s Cabinet has agreed to implement the death penalty for drug traffickers, including those who are already facing the death sentence in prisons. Simultaneously, the country granted police powers to the military, so that soldiers can assist in domestic drug law enforcement.


Is Honduras Losing the Fight Against Aerial Drug Trafficking?
Angelika Albaladejo – InSight Crime: 12 July 2018

After seizing airplanes used to transport drugs, Honduras is concerned it is losing the aerial fight against drug trafficking. Authorities have already shut down dozens of clandestine landing strips, but have made little progress catching suspects and identifying routes and suppliers.


For more on this theme:

The darknet is transforming the drug trade. Pittsburgh is an epicenter of the FBI’s work to crack down.

Army Officers Trained on Anti-Drug Trafficking, Protecting Communities from Narcotics

How the War on Drugs Is Making Tajikistan More Authoritarian
https://thediplomat.com/2018/07/how-the-war-on-drugs-is-making-tajikistan-more-authoritarian/

More Cocaine Leaving Ecuador Shows Flaws in Anti-Drug Strategies

How Go-Fast Vessels have Revolutionized Narco Maritime Operations

Peru: How chocolate saved a community and a protected area from the drug trade

How WhatsApp has helped heroin become Mozambique’s second biggest export
https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-44726227

Mexico’s President-Elect Proposes ‘Transitional Justice’ In Drug War

How crooks smuggle heroin to Europe
TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

Campaign group says illegal ivory trade breezes past EU law
Reuters: 9 July 2018

Illegal elephant ivory continues to be sold across Europe, raising fears about the animals’ survival as a species, a recent study by Oxford University has found. Almost three-quarters of supposedly legal ivory sold in Europe is, in fact, illicit and comes from tusks of elephants killed after the 1990 ban on the ivory trade.

Vietnamese national park uses hi-tech to fight illegal logging, fires
Xinhua: 9 July 2018

Vietnam’s Chu Mom Ray National Park in Kon Tum province is using geographic information system technology for surveillance and management of forests, resulting in fewer illegal logging cases and fires.

For more on this theme:
New study highlights need for comprehensive online wildlife trade monitoring in Viet Nam
http://www.traffic.org/home/2018/7/10/new-study-highlights-need-for-comprehensive-online-wildlife.html

The Lizard King: Illegal Wildlife Trade’s Poster Boy

Women being used as conduits of wildlife crime, bemoans Tourism PS

Inside Zimbabwe's Fight to Curb Pangolin Poaching
https://psmag.com/environment/zimbabwe-is-combatting-pangolin-poaching

When turtles become extinct, this secretive center in SC will reintroduce them
https://www.thestate.com/latest-news/article214190044.html

Cameroon crisis threatens wildlife as thousands flee to protected areas

Illegal Loggers Are Decimating Romania’s Virgin Forests, Say Green Groups
http://www.earthisland.org/journal/index.php/elists/elists/illegal_loggers_decimating_romania's_last_virgin_forests/

Drones utilized for forest management
https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1752493/Baguio/Local-News/Drones-utilized-for-forest-management

Government Procures 200 Drones To Combat Illegal Mining
https://www.gbcghana.com/1.11651160
HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND IRREGULAR MIGRATION

Robots will lead to more human trafficking, slavery, report says
Sean Keane – CNET: 12 July 2018

The rise of robotics in manufacturing could result in a dramatic rise in human trafficking and slavery, particularly in Southeast Asia. So says the “Human Rights Outlook 2018” report from corporate risk analysis consultancy Verisk Maplecroft.


New U.S. Policy Raises Risk of Deportation for Immigrant Victims of Trafficking
Martin de Bourmont – Foreign Policy: 9 July 2018

New U.S. immigration guidelines have made it harder for victims of human trafficking to remain in the country if denied a special visa, making deportation hearings automatic after denial. The new policy also makes it more difficult for law enforcement to investigate human traffickers.


For more on this theme:

Human traffickers targeting children, teens on social media

Study visit on effective combat against human trafficking for labour exploitation
https://www.coe.int/en/web/skopje/-/study-visit-on-effective-combat-against-human-trafficking-for-labour-exploitation

The New Epidemic – human trafficking in South Africa

Human Trafficking: The Other Side Of The World Cup Which Nobody Sees
https://www.huffingtonpost.co.za/john-davenport/the-other-side-of-the-world-cup-which-nobody-sees_a_23478428/

How I tackled human trafficking post Nepal earthquake: Intv with Ministry S Nair, IAS

Ireland and Belgium are the new frontiers in the fight against illegal migration, the National Crime Agency warns

Destination Europe: Demoralised

How Libya holds the key to solving Europe’s migration crisis
INTERNET GOVERNANCE

Is Russia about to launch a parallel internet?
Justin Lynch – Fifth Domain: 12 July 2018

Russia has long desired to create an alternate internet over which it would be able to exert more control. Such a move would raise already high tensions between Russia and the United States.

For more on this theme:
(Zimbabwe) CSOs Pile Pressure on Zim Gvt for unfettered Internet Governance and Freedoms

(Gambia) Gambia holds 4th Internet Governance Forum

(Global) UNESCO promotes an Open and Inclusive Internet at the Internet Governance Forum of France

INTERNET FREEDOM

Russia: We want volunteers to help us censor the internet
David Meyer – ZDNet: 12 July 2018

Russian Interior Minister Vladimir Kolokoltsev told a forum of volunteers that Russia could use help monitoring internet networks to hunt for information Russia’s rulers have banned.

For more on this theme:
(South Africa) SA film and publications bill amounts to ‘internet censorship’ says ISPA

(China) How Is Internet Censorship Affecting Chinese Culture?

(Egypt) Egypt’s Draconian New Cybercrime Bill Will Only Increase Censorship
PRIVACY AND SECURITY

**Michael Chertoff On Privacy In The Digital Age**

*National Public Radio: 12 July 2018*

How should we rethink the balance between privacy and security in the digital age? Former Secretary of U.S. Homeland Security Michael Chertoff sits down for an interview to discuss his new book.


*For more on this theme:*

(U.S.) Why protecting privacy is a losing game today—and how to change the game

(U.S.) What You Need to Know About California’s New Data Privacy Law

(U.S., Global) How a Startup Is Using the Blockchain to Protect Your Privacy
https://www.wired.com/story/how-a-startup-is-using-the-blockchain-to-protect-your-privacy/

CYBER STATECRAFT DEVELOPMENT

**Top State Department cyber official ‘optimistic’ of U.N. deal with Russia, China**

*Sean Lyngaas – CyberScoop: 9 July 2018*

The U.S. State Department’s top cyber security official says he is “optimistic” the United Nations can help bring China and Russia into the fold on determining norms for government behavior in cyberspace.


*For more on this theme:*

(India) Is India at all Prepared for Cyber Warfare?

(Global) The Perils of Confusing Nuclear and Cyber Strategy

(China) Welcome to the modern military: China’s new combat units prepare for electronic warfare
PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

A Look at Israel’s New Draft Cybersecurity Law
Deborah Housen-Couriel – Council on Foreign Relations: 2 July 2018

Israel is pushing for a new relationship with its private sector in terms of cyber threat sharing. If private sector entities cooperate with the country’s new plan, they will obtain immunity from antitrust and other civil claims.

https://www.cfr.org/blog/look-israels-new-draft-cybersecurity-law

For more on this theme:

(U.S.) Georgia Cyber Center, Touting Partnerships Across Sectors, to Open in Augusta

(U.S.) Microsoft partnership promises free Wi-Fi access in Valley Junction
http://www.kcci.com/article/microsoft-partnership-promises-free-wi-fi-access-in-valley-junction/22096952

(Mexico) Better internet for Baja: cable firm to lay new fiber optic cable

PROTECTION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

China Won’t Back Down on Cyber Espionage Anytime Soon
Stratfor: 6 July 2018

Despite signing an agreement against economic intellectual property theft, China will continue to steal from U.S. companies and key agencies because of the growing economic and technological competition between the two nations.


For more on this theme:

(China, Australia) Chinese-linked hackers breached top Australian defense university, report says

(U.S., Global) What is blockchain’s role in the future of Intellectual Property?
https://www.information-age.com/blockchain-role-future-ip-123473412/

(South Africa) Fighting intellectual property pirates with the cloud
CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING

Mind the Gap: Addressing South Africa’s cybersecurity skills shortage
Elmarie Biermann and Noëlle van der Waag-Cowling – Daily Maverick: 13 July 2018
South Africa is experiencing the same cyber security skills shortage as the rest of the world. To fix the problem, the country is seeking to improve education and training in this critical field.
https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2018-07-13-mind-the-gap-addressing-south-africas-cybersecurity-skills-shortage/#.W0hDbSBG0aE

For more on this theme:
(Canada) Better Internet service crucial for Indigenous communities
https://www.folio.ca/commentary--better-internet-service-crucial-for-indigenous-communities/
(China, Pakistan) Slow Internet Hurting China’s Silk Road Ambitions in Pakistan
(United Kingdom) Cyber-court beefs up London’s legal status
https://www.cdr-news.com/categories/technology/8348-cyber-court-beefs-up-london-s-legal-status

COMBATING TERRORISM AND CYBER CRIME

Collaborate or bust – Africa needs to coordinate response to cybercrime
Vincent Matinde – ITWeb Africa: 12 July 2018
Cyber crime is rampant across Africa, but only 18 of 54 African nations have set up computer incident response teams (CIRT) and cyber security emergency response teams (CERT) to tackle an increase in such crime.

For more on this theme:
(Global) Cyber Trend: Hackers Love to Steal Data; Next, They Might Weaponize It
(U.S., Global) Cyber attackers cashing in on ‘hidden’ attack surface
(India) Assam cops get cyber edge
INFORMATION SHARING

U.K. Calls on EU to Keep on Sharing Cyber Security and Data
Nate Lanxon – Bloomberg: 12 July 2018

The United Kingdom government is lobbying the European Union to start talks on protecting and sharing personal data post-Brexit.


For more on this theme:

(Israel, Global) Israel seeks global collaboration to defend cyber attacks

(Ukraine) SBU, Antonov sign memorandum on exchanging info about cyber-attacks in real time

CYBER PROTECTION OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Russian hackers targeted Ukraine’s water supply, security service claims
Alexander J. Martin – Sky News: 11 July 2018

Ukrainian law enforcement personnel reportedly thwarted a digital attack that targeted equipment owned and operated by a water chlorination plant.


For more on this theme:

(U.S., Global) The Battlefields of Cyberwarfare Include Infrastructure and Industry, and May Become Deadly

(Israel) Islamic cyber terrorists trying to target infrastructure

(Nigeria) Cybersecurity: Defence Staff Moves to Secure National Infrastructure Ahead of 2019 Elections
PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

ISIS

Isis orders supporters to use official channels after onslaught of fake propaganda and cyberattacks

*Lizzie Dearden – The Independent: 12 July 2018*

Concerned about spoofed propaganda and cyber attacks by international intelligence agencies, ISIS has ordered supporters to follow only its official websites.


Afghanistan: Islamic State’s Radio Outreach

*Institute for War & Peace Reporting: 12 July 2018*

For the past three years in the Afghan province of Nangarhar, a radio station affiliated with ISIS has been broadcasting propaganda and recruiting messages. The Afghan government has struggled to shut down the broadcasts.

https://iwpr.net/global-voices/afghanistan-islamic-states-radio-outreach

For more on this theme:

- Spate of attacks in eastern Afghanistan marks push by Islamic State militants

- Analysis: Can the Islamic State be defeated?
  https://www.jpost.com/Middle-East/Moving-forward-will-the-Islamic-State-ever-be-defeated-561770

- Islamic State has survived 100,000 bombs and missiles and is still active
  https://theconversation.com/islamic-state-has-survived-100-000-bombs-and-missiles-and-is-still-active-99407

- After Middle East failure, is Thailand the next ‘caliphate’ for the Islamic State group?
  https://www.alaraby.co.uk/english/indepth/2018/7/6/is-thailand-next-for-the-islamic-state-group

The Islamic State and India

https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/the-islamic-state-and-india-afghan-terrorist-is-recruitment-kashmir-5255723/

ISIS is trying to make a comeback by creating chaos with assassinations — the same tactic it employed before it rose to power 5 years ago


A worldwide state of terror: Map shows how ISIS continues to wreak carnage across the globe, despite losing its ‘caliphate’

TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

The potentially more sinister threat in Boko Haram's split
Omar S. Mahmood – Institute for Security Studies: 12 July 2018

Boko Haram split into two separate groups in 2016, and both are terrorizing the Lake Chad region. One of the groups, Islamic State-West Africa, is positioning itself as a long-term threat.
https://issafrica.org/iss-today/the-potentially-more-sinister-threat-in-boko-harams-split

ISIS May Be Waning, but Global Threats of Terrorism Continue to Spread

Terror attacks and threats of attacks have occurred around the world recently, highlighting that even as ISIS has been decimated, terrorism continues to spread.

For more on this theme:

Eco-Jihad: Are Islamic extremists really embracing saving the planet?

How civil initiatives will help to defeat al-Shabaab
http://www.atimes.com/how-civil-initiatives-will-help-to-defeat-al-shabaab/

Still Fighting Al-Qaeda

Path of Blood: New documentary explores jihadi extremism, radicalisation and al-Qaeda’s target, Saudi Arabia

The Al-Qaeda affiliate behind latest attack on Tunisia’s soldiers
https://www.thenational.ae/world/mena/the-al-qaeda-affiliate-behind-latest-attack-on-tunisia-s-soldiers-1.748918

Terror is alive and well in the United Kingdom

Al-Qaeda 2.0 emerges from power struggles
https://www.middle-east-online.com/en/al-qaeda-20-emerges-power-struggles-0

Hamas divided: The Gaza Strip rulers’ humanitarian aid dilemma

Hezbollah and Iran-handled Shi’ite militias are integrated into the Syrian army in its campaign to take control of south Syria
RADICALIZATION AND MESSAGING

**New research shows why terrorists quit terrorism**
Julie Chernov Hwang – The Washington Post: 12 July 2018

While writing her book *Why Terrorists Quit: The Disengagement of Indonesian Jihadists*, the author found that families play a critical role in reintegrating former radicals.


**Poverty 'obvious' driver of radicalization in Lake Chad region: AU envoy**
UN News Service: 6 July 2018

According to an African Union envoy, the key to addressing extremism in the Lake Chad region is to stymie terrorist recruitment by providing gainful employment.


For more on this theme:

**Meet the Average (Alleged) U.S. ISIS Recruit**
http://www.realclearlife.com/crime/meet-average-alleged-u-s-isis-recruit/

**Radicalization and Homegrown Terrorism: Four-in-ten say radicalized individuals live in their communities**
http://angusreid.org/radicalization-homegrown-terrorism/

**Index of Radicalization: Islamic Radicalization in Michigan**
https://www.ict.org.il/Article/2227/Islamic_Radicalization_in_Michigan#gsc.tab=0

**Intel agencies in J&K target social media to fight radicalization**

**The need for an action plan**
https://www.dhakatribune.com/opinion/2018/07/10/the-need-for-an-action-plan

**Swedish extremism hotline fights for survival after losing funding**
https://www.thelocal.se/20180710/swedish-extremism-hotline-fights-for-survival-after-losing-funding

**The terrorists' war on education**
https://www.aei.org/publication/the-terrorists-war-on-education/

**Radicalisation of Valley youth sets off alarm bells**

**Major Political Parties in Pakistan Pledge to Combat Terrorism, Radicalisation if Voted to Power**

**Radicalisation of Youth in Indonesia and Counteractions**
FOREIGN FIGHTERS

Foreign fighters could enter Europe as asylum-seekers, warns Italy
Business Standard: 12 July 2018

Foreign fighters may hide among immigrants entering Europe, Italy’s populist Premier Giuseppe Conte told reporters during the NATO summit.


For more on this theme:

Russian grandmothers attempt to return their grandchildren from ISIS’ hands
https://jam-news.net/?p=112627

Wives of ISIS militants file for divorce, try to start over

Defense Minister Warns of ‘Third-Generation Terrorism’ Threat

COUNTERTERRORISM STRATEGIES

Counterterrorism policy and strategy must move up the ‘innovation stack’
Alex Gallo – The Hill: 12 July 2018

NATO as an organization lacks a grand counterterrorism strategy, according to the author. He argues that this lack of rigor in strategic thinking has led to stagnation in policy.


For more on this theme:

From the Margins of Counter-Terrorism, the Dilemma of Civil Society

Is the world a safer place than it was on 9/11?

Central Asian Deputy Foreign Ministers discuss cooperation with EU in counter-terrorism, environmental protection
https://akipress.com/news:608661

Pakistan, Iran and the Financial Fight Against Terrorism
CONSEQUENCE MANAGEMENT

DEALING WITH DISASTER

RHC-P flexes disaster response capabilities during RIMPAC 2018
Ana Aller – Defense Visual Information Distribution Service: 12 July 2018

As part of the Rim of the Pacific exercise, the U.S. military and its civilian counterparts, along with 24 other nations, are participating in emergency, disaster response and mass casualty training this month.


‘We can contribute in disaster risk reduction’, say hundreds of children and youth in Asia Pacific
World Vision: 10 July 2018

At national consultation workshops, young people expressed their desire to participate in disaster risk-reduction efforts within Asia.


For more on this theme:

The Promotion of ‘Grab Bags’ as a Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy

New hurricane preparedness plans for British Overseas Territories in Caribbean
http://bvi.gov.vg/node/9434

Joint Institute To Focus On Gulf of Mexico Disaster Preparedness

EU and Georgia strengthen cooperation in civil protection and disaster risk management

Find and fix the weak points in disaster defenses
https://www.japantimes.co.jp/opinion/2018/07/12/editorials/find-fix-weak-points-disaster-defenses/#.
WOhvYLhGoAE

Case Studies: Red Cross Red Crescent Disaster Risk Reduction in Action – What Works at Local Level, June 2018

Disaster displacement “chronic” in Asia
https://www.unisdr.org/archive/59193