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COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

Albania’s self-consuming corruption is undermining its path to EU accession
Alon Ben-Meir – Emerging Europe: 4 July 2019
Corruption is hindering Albania’s progress toward joining the European Union as a number of EU countries balked at approving the opening of accession talks. That comes as Russia and Turkey increasingly meddle in the affairs of Western Balkan countries aimed at fragmenting the EU.

Romania’s Most Powerful Politician Is in Jail, but Its Corruption Fight Isn’t Over
Andrew MacDowall – World Politics Review: 8 July 2019
The jailing of Romania’s ruling party leader and de facto premier Liviu Dragnea on corruption charges suggests the country’s nascent anti-corruption institutions are working. Nevertheless, some politicians and a politicized civil service have tried to weaken anti-corruption laws.
https://www.worldpoliticsreview.com/articles/28012/romania-s-most-powerful-politician-is-in-jail-but-its-corruption-fight-isn-t-over

For more on this theme:
Could an Argentina Version of CICIG Fix its Corruption Woes?
Turkey Europe’s worst performer in anti-corruption measures - report
African oligarchs and their global networks of corruption
EU-Ukraine Summit: moving forward together in solidarity
Hidden in plain sight: domestic corruption, fraud and the integrity deficit

IN WHOSE INTEREST? POLITICAL INTEGRITY AND CORRUPTION IN AFRICA

Montenegro: Draft Secrecy Law Would Fuel Corruption, Critics Warn

DRUG TRAFFICKING

The Flight and Capture of a Cartel Man
Daniela Castro, Guilherme Amado, and Nelfi Fernandez – Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project: 1 July 2019
A high-ranking, brutal Mexican narcotics trafficker spent two years hiding in Bolivia under the guise of a wealthy cattle rancher. Bolivia says that even though U.S. authorities were aware of his alias and location, an Interpol alert was never issued.
London is now the global money-laundering centre for the drug trade, says crime expert
James Hanning and David Connett – The Independent: 4 July 2019

Banks and financial services in London, desperate for liquidity after the financial crisis, have
ignored the provenance of drug money and failed to enforce “know-your-customer” rules against
money laundering.


For more on this theme:
Drugs at sea – more coke plus more ships equals more problems
Albanian drug smuggling gang dismantled in Europe-wide operation
Europe: Record steroid bust leads to hundreds of arrests
Philippines: UN investigation urgently needed into Duterte administration’s murderous “war on drugs”
77% of Drug Traffickers Are U.S. Citizens, Not Illegal Immigrants
https://www.cato.org/blog/77-drug-traffickers-are-us-citizens-not-illegal-immigrants
Drug dealers offering free travel and quick cash to lure young Hongkongers into trafficking cocaine, Ice and ketamine mules
Spanish police bust international drugs gang in Granada

TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES
Lion and tiger farming may be inhumane, but we don’t know if it increases poaching
Niki Rust and Amy Hinsley – The Conversation: 9 July 2019

A report from an animal protection organization asserts that farming lions and tigers is not only
inhumane to the big cats, but also increases poaching by perpetuating demand for products
made from the animals. The report’s conclusions are questionable, however, as crocodile
farming has reduced pressure on populations in the wild.

http://theconversation.com/lion-and-tiger-farming-may-be-inhumane-but-we-dont-know-if-it-increases-poaching-120040

Bulgarian dolphin deaths could be linked to illegal fishing
BBC News: 9 July 2019

The remains of dozens of dolphin calves have been found along Bulgarian beaches this summer.
Environmentalists blame fisherman poaching the prized Talbot flathead. The young dolphins
suffocate in fishing nets.
For more on this theme:

Stopping Oil Theft in Mexico Futile Game of Whac-a-Mole

Poachers Are Invading Botswana, Last Refuge of African Elephants

ANALYSIS: Botswana has an elephant poaching problem, not an overpopulation problem

Chinese Illegal Logging Leaves Mozambique Vulnerable to Cyclones

The Human Toll of Illegal Fishing

‘Peace ambassadors’ ease water conflicts in drought-prone Kenya

By the Numbers: Congo’s Deadly Struggle With Illegal Mining

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND IRREGULAR MIGRATION

Mexico’s Migration Dilemmas
Andrew Selee – Foreign Affairs: 8 July 2019

Migration at the United States' southern border has reached crisis proportions as the number of migrants has overwhelmed available infrastructure and resources. Meanwhile, the U.S.’s southern neighbor is caught between American pressure to restrict flows of Central Americans traversing its country and its limited resources and lack of a coherent policy.


They escaped ISIS. Then they got sucked into Baghdad’s sex trafficking underworld
Anwa Damon, Ghazi Balkiz, Brice Laine and Aqeel Najm – CNN: 3 July 2019

Many Iraqi women, mostly ethnic Yazidis, having escaped ISIS, have fallen into the hands of sex slavery networks trafficking women in Baghdad and other Iraqi cities. The Iraqi government has done little to address the problem.


For more on this theme:

Yazidi Women Training in Israel to Help Their Community Cope With the Trauma of ISIS
https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/.premium-yazidi-women-training-in-israel-to-help-their-
Malta to allow German NGO ship to dock, ending standoff

UK slavery network ‘had 400 victims’

Refugees in Libya launch hunger strike, demand evacuation

Why Roots of U.S. Border Crisis Lie South of Mexico

Rohingya refugee voices amplify across Southeast Asia

What Happened When the EU Moved Its Fight to Stop Migration to Niger
https://www.thenation.com/article/niger-agadez-migration/

PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

INTERNET GOVERNANCE
Letting the Internet Regulate Itself Was a Good Idea — in the 1990s
Margaret O’Mara – The New York Times: 5 July 2019
Although a light regulatory touch enabled the internet to grow into what it is today, perhaps it’s time for more regulation. Evidence suggests that once new technologies mature, the right regulation can improve competition and innovation.

For more on this theme:
(U.S., EU, Global) US risks its leading role in tech by leaving regulations to the EU

(Global) Artificial Intelligence And The Challenge Of Global Governance

(EU) Net Neutrality, EU final call on Internet governance?

INTERNET FREEDOM
Who Has the Most Censored Internet?
Daniel Kolitz – Gizmodo: 8 July 2019
Communications and technology academics discuss internet freedom and which countries censor the most. Countries such as China, North Korea and Cuba have the least free internet, but all countries monitor and regulate what happens online.
https://gizmodo.com/who-has-the-most-censored-internet-1835870157
For more on this theme:

(U.S., Global) GREED IS TO BLAME FOR THE RADICALIZATION OF SOCIAL MEDIA
https://www.wired.com/story/greed-is-to-blame-for-the-radicalization-of-social-media/

(Sudan) Sudan activists say internet restored after crackdown
https://apnews.com/e1541a09119e49d1894e8708c5683988

(U.K.) New online safety laws pose ‘profound dangers to press freedom’, warn UK media groups

PRIVACY AND SECURITY

Germany - GPS tracking of company vehicles: what is allowed?
Jessica Jacobi – Lexology: 10 July 2019
A German court ruled that a private firm using GPS to track the location of its company vehicles is unnecessary and violates the personal protections of its employees under European data privacy laws.
https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=131fb5fb-ccfb-4bd6-bc4c-5f43040d83ef

For more on this theme:

(Global) Apple disables Walkie Talkie app due to vulnerability that could allow iPhone eavesdropping

(U.S.) Fast-food chains consider trying license plate recognition in drive-throughs

(U.S.) Axon, the maker of police body cams, won’t pursue facial recognition as a business

CYBER STATECRAFT DEVELOPMENT

Facebook’s Digital Currency Could Pose a Systemic Risk, Fed’s Powell Says
Claire Williams – Morning Consult: 10 July 2019
The U.S. Treasury Department is examining ways to regulate Facebook’s proposed digital currency, Libra. Officials are concerned it will destabilize the financial system and assist cyber criminals and terrorists.

For more on this theme:

(U.S.) Senate moves Blockchain Promotion Act forward
PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

Public-private collaboration is key to building Africa’s digital future
Cloud computing has revolutionized access to world-class IT infrastructure and enabled African countries to break down barriers that have kept their citizens from fully benefiting from the internet revolution.

https://www.theafricareport.com/14931/public-private-collaboration-is-key-to-building-africas-digital-future/

For more on this theme:

(U.S.) DOE teams with industry on pipeline cybersecurity
https://www.fedscoop.com/doe-industry-pipeline-cybersecurity-recommendations/

(Nigeria) NCC advocates public-private partnership to protect communication infrastructure

(U.S.) Protect Our Power Welcomes Introduction of Federal Legislation to Safeguard Electric Grid from Attacks

PROTECTION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

The Right Way to Deal With Huawei
Adam Segal – Foreign Affairs: 11 July 2019
The United States is right to distrust Huawei for sharing technical secrets with the Chinese government. But simply banning Huawei from doing business with American firms and pressuring allies to comply is not enough. U.S. companies must develop products to compete with Huawei.


For more on this theme:

(U.S., China, Global) Blacklisting Huawei Could Cost Trillions, so Let’s Look Before We Leap

(EU, Global) The internet: regulators struggle to balance freedom with risk
https://www.ft.com/content/e49c39e6-967d-11e9-8cfb-30c211dcd229

(U.S., China) Former heads of DHS and NSA explain how the U.S. can keep Huawei at bay
CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING

CAN SHE BEAT BEZOS AND MUSK TO BEAM HIGH-SPEED INTERNET FROM SPACE?
Virat Markandeya – Ozy: 9 July 2019

Indian IT innovator Neha Satak and Astrome, the company she co-founded, aim to develop and deploy satellite-based internet, a transformative development for the half of the planet that still lacks internet service.


For more on this theme:
(U.S.) Tell Joint AI Center Your Cyber Defense Idea — In 99 Words Or Less

(Africa) The explosion of tech hubs across Africa is showing no signs of slowing down

(EU) Can the DoRiot project secure the Internet of Things?
https://www.scmagazineuk.com/doriot-project-secure-internet-things/article/1590701

COMBATING TERRORISM AND CYBER CRIME

A massive international email scam netted $3 million worth of top-secret US military equipment
Justin Rohrlich – Quartz: 9 July 2019

A group of international cyber criminals used an email scam to con a U.S. defense contractor into sending them millions of dollars worth of equipment, including sensitive military communications hardware whose mere existence was classified.

https://qz.com/1661537/us-defense-contractor-falls-for-3-million-email-scam/

For more on this theme:
(Global) Fake voices ‘help cyber-crooks steal cash’

(Global) Fears of AI-powered hacking are misplaced as criminals are doing fine without it

(U.S.) US mayors group adopts resolution not to pay any more ransoms to hackers

INFORMATION SHARING

HOMELAND SECURITY USES FOREIGN DATABASES TO ACCUSE IMMIGRANTS OF GANG INVOLVEMENT
Melissa del Bosque – Pacific Standard: 10 July 2019

U.S. immigration officers are using data gathered by Central American security services and aggregated at a State Department-funded fusion intelligence center in El Salvador to identify migrants with gang affiliations who attempt to enter the country.

For more on this theme:

(Singapore, Global) Trusted data and the future of information sharing

(U.S.) What is an ISAC or ISAO? How these cyber threat information sharing organizations improve security
https://www.csoonline.com/article/3406505/what-is-an-isac-or-isao-how-these-cyber-threat-information-sharing-organizations-improve-security.html

(U.S.) New energy-sector reporting requirements could shed light on emerging threats, or tread old ground

CYBER PROTECTION OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Finland brings cybersecurity to the fore as EU presidency commences
Catherine Chapman – The Daily Swig: 8 July 2019
Finland plans to hold cyber security exercises focused on defending against a wide range of attacks on critical infrastructure and democratic processes. The country also has highlighted cyber security as it assumes the European Union presidency.
https://portswigger.net/daily-swig/finland-brings-cybersecurity-to-the-fore-as-eu-presidency-commences

For more on this theme:

(U.S.) A New Regulatory Push For Transportation Cybersecurity
https://www.law360.com/technology/articles/1174824/a-new-regulatory-push-for-transportation-cybersecurity

(U.S.) Strengthening cybersecurity in the U.S.
https://www.openaccessgovernment.org/strengthening-cybersecurity/68873/

(Greece) Sea Turtle DNS hijackers linked to breach of Greece’s ccTLD organisation

PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

ISIS AND FOREIGN FIGHTERS

If the world really wants to defeat ISIS, it needs to listen to North East Syria
The Defense Post: 6 July 2019
ISIS has been defeated on the battlefield, but it continues to send lone-wolf attackers to Europe and throughout the region it terrorized. Northeast Syria faces increased attacks from ISIS sleeper cells and a potential humanitarian crisis in the form of thousands of captured ISIS fighters and their families.
https://thedefensepost.com/2019/07/06/international-forum-on-isis-rojava-information-center-opinion/
Europe Has Turned Its Back on Its ISIS Suspects
Kathy Gilsinan – The Atlantic: 5 July 2019

European democracies have been hesitant to repatriate their citizens who left to join ISIS. Thousands of captured ISIS foreign fighters and their families languish in detention camps in Syria and Iraq.


For more on this theme:

ISIS re-emerges in southern Libya, vows to target Haftar ‘apostates’

SIX VICTIMS OF ISIS IN ‘EXECUTION SUITS’ FOUND IN SYRIA MASS GRAVE

ISIS still strikes fear in Germany amid reports of government losing track of 160 former militants

Alleged Islamic State militant on trial in Netherlands for war crimes

Islamic State says it carried out attack at Shi’ite mosque in central Afghanistan

MOSSAD FOILED 50 ISIS TERROR ATTACKS IN 20 COUNTRIES, INCLUDING TURKEY

Iraqi army kills four Islamic State terrorists on Syrian border

TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

Global terrorism is in decline. For victims, it doesn’t feel like it
Kim Hjelmgaard – USA Today: 6 July 2019

Data show that the number, prevalence and lethality of terrorist incidents have decreased significantly worldwide since 2014. But the threats are more widespread geographically and more liable to be amplified by social media.

Al Qaeda vs ISIS for Indonesia's terror crown
John McBeth – Asia Times: 6 July 2019

Jemaah Islamiyah (JI), the al-Qaeda affiliate in Indonesia, ostensibly foreswore homegrown violence in 2007, though splinter groups have continued to conduct attacks. JI seems to be gaining support since its rival ISIS was defeated and its tactics discredited in Syria and Iraq.

For more on this theme:

Islamic State claims ISWAP repelled Nigeria military in Damboa LGA

A Political Murder and Far-Right Terrorism: Germany's New Hateful Reality

The post-caliphate Salafi-jihadi environment

Morocco’s Counterterrorism Efforts Reduce Level of Terror Threats

States should join hands to fight terror
https://www.standardmedia.co.ke/article/2001333226/states-should-join-hands-to-fight-terrorz

Five soldiers injured in suspected West Bank car-ramming

Tunisia’s Upcoming Elections Vulnerable to Terror Threats, Experts Warn

RADICALIZATION AND MESSAGING

ISIS Scolds Wannabe Jihadists Who Make ‘Easy Prey’ for Intel, Ruin Attack Plots
Bridget Johnson – Homeland Security Today.US: 8 July 2019

ISIS scolded wannabe jihadists for sloppy tradecraft resulting in arrests and blown operations in a new tutorial issued in its weekly newsletter. ISIS suspects revealed their intentions to undercover police operatives, forcing terrorist leaders to warn recruits to “trust nobody.”

Threat from petty criminals who turn to terrorism, a growing concern, Security Council hears
UN News: 9 July 2019

Less predictable, small-time criminals turned terrorists pose a serious global threat. Small terrorist cells have focused on recruiting criminals in prisons, which have become true “incubators of the link” between terrorism and organized crime, facilitating a dangerous exchange of knowledge.
For more on this theme:

**ISIS, al-Qaeda Fuming at Saudi Concert Once Headlined by Nicki Minaj**

**France combats extremism with secularism — and a hotline**

**Radicalization, not poverty, causes insurgency**
https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1073734

**Carlos Alvarado On Video That Incites Violence: ‘Let Them Not Steal Our Peace’**
https://qcosterica.com/carlos-alvarado-on-video-that-incites-violence-let-them-not-steal-our-peace/

**Shunned Rohingya students turn to madrasas**

**Hamas’ Terror Recruiters Rely on a Mix of Old and New Media**

**North Korea launches an ebook to spread ideology among its people**

### FINANCING TERRORISM

**Terrorists are trafficking looted antiquities with impunity on Facebook**
*Tim Fernholz – Quartz: 3 July 2019*

A group of volunteer anthropologists has released a new report documenting how individuals linked to extremist groups in conflict zones such as Syria, Yemen and Libya are offering priceless artifacts for sale on Facebook.

https://qz.com/1657192/terrorists-are-trafficking-antiquities-with-impunity-on-facebook/

**Trump administration sanctions Hezbollah officials for supporting Iran’s ‘malign activities’**
*Darryl Coote – UPI: 10 July 2019*

The U.S. Treasury Department announced new sanctions on senior leaders of Hezbollah, the Iranian-backed Lebanese militant group, charging them with using mafia-like tactics to support the organization’s terrorist activities.


For more on this theme:

**Iran Remains on Terror-Financing Blacklist, Int’l Taskforce Toughens Supervision of Banks**

**Pakistan Registers Terror Financing Cases Against Leader of Banned Militant Group**
**Terror financing: Editor of prominent English daily quizzed by NIA**

**Moroccan Police Arrest Palestinian Dealing in Bitcoin for Terrorist Organizations**

**When it comes to terrorism, it's all about the money in Kashmir**

**The Gaza Strip-based Generosity Without Limit Association, affiliated with the Popular Resistance Committees terrorist organization, is supported by charitable organizations abroad.**

**Philippines' Central Bank Will Continue to Closely Monitor Crypto, Citing Terror Financing**

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**COUNTERTERRORISM STRATEGIES**

**Addressing the Threat of Homegrown Violent Extremists Sympathetic to the Islamic State**
Kim Cragin – Lawfare: 7 July 2019

The greatest terrorist threat in the United States and Europe comes from homegrown violent extremists, rather than returning foreign fighters or infiltrators from abroad, security officials say. Authorities also have gotten better at disrupting their plots.
https://www.lawfareblog.com/addressing-threat-homegrown-violent-extremists-sympathetic-islamic-state

**The Massive Perils of the Latest U.N. Resolution on Terrorism**
Fionnuala Ní Aoláin – Just Security: 8 July 2019

A counterterrorism resolution under consideration by the United Nations Security Council in July — dealing with the nexus of terrorism and organized crime — could threaten individual nations’ sovereignty and human rights.
https://www.justsecurity.org/64840/the-massive-perils-of-the-latest-u-n-resolution-on-terrorism/

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For more on this theme:

**Fears Rise of an ISIS Comeback**
https://foreignpolicy.com/2019/07/02/fears-rise-of-an-isis-comeback/

**US calls for German ground troops in Syria**

**UK and France to send further forces to Syria in aid of US withdrawal**

**Peace might be breaking out in America's longest ever war**
Terrorism ‘spreading and destabilizing’ entire regions, Guterres warns States, at key Kenya conference

Canada is Starting to Outlaw Far-Right Groups, and It’s About Time
https://www.justsecurity.org/64813/canada-is-starting-to-outlaw-far-right-groups-and-its-about-time/

EU pledges €138 million more to support G5 Sahel Joint Force
https://thedefensepost.com/2019/07/10/eu-g5-sahel-joint-force-138-million/