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CORRUPTION

Preventing corruption in forest conservation: the difference civil society monitoring makes
Transparency International: 19 July 2018

The nongovernmental organization Transparency International has released a report on the effectiveness of programs that provide money to governments as an incentive to conserve forests. The report tracks how the money is being used.

https://voices.transparency.org/preventing-corruption-in-forest-conservation-the-difference-civil-society-monitoring-makes-fdc30e696c98

Ukraine Must Focus More on Reducing Opportunities for Corruption
John Lough – Chatham House: 18 July 2018

Recent steps by Ukraine to establish an anti-corruption court are significant but not enough to warrant optimism. Choosing judges will be difficult because the judiciary is plagued by corruption and has no tradition of institutional independence.

https://www.chathamhouse.org/expert/comment/ukraine-must-focus-more-reducing-opportunities-corruption

For more on this theme:

Pitching up: ICC investigating 13 anti-corruption cases

Imran Khan’s anti-corruption fight powers into final election push

A Case Of Corruption And Embezzlement Angering Iranians

Nigeria’s plan to redistribute recovered corruption money needs a rethink

Londongrad and beyond: UK foreign policy and the fight against corruption
https://www.ecfr.eu/article/commentary_londongrad_and_uk_foreign_policy_fight_against_corruption

Peruvians march against corruption as head of judiciary resigns

Parents fuelling corruption in schools, report says

Is China’s new anti-corruption agency abusing its power?
DRUG TRAFFICKING

Death Sentence Having Little Effect on Drug in Southeast Asia
Voice of America: 19 July 2019

Asia is a booming hub for the drug trade, according to a recent United Nations report. The amount of drugs seized in Asia in 2016 was three times greater than the amount seized in 2015. Southeast Asian authorities are not shy about doling out the death penalty to punish drug traffickers, and yet narcotics abuse has not abated. If anything, it is on the rise. Is the region’s war on drugs working?


The multi-headed hydra that is the Afghanistan drug trade
Ali M. Latifi – ThinkProgress: 15 July 2018

Since 2001, the Afghan drug trade has evolved dramatically. It seems everyone claims a piece of the narcotics industry, from militias to terrorists to security officials. The political instability spanning almost two decades has divided the classes along economic lines, further fueling the problem.

https://thinkprogress.org/the-multi-headed-hydra-that-is-the-afghanistan-drug-trade/

For more on this theme:

With possible executions looming, Sri Lanka to hire two hangmen
https://af.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idAFKBN1K31SN

West Africa’s Addiction to Hard Drugs Is on the Rise
https://www.voanews.com/a/west-africa-drug-addiction/4489345.html

AMLO’s government would consider legalization of drugs

Drug trafficking: Politicians linked to heroin
https://www.standardmedia.co.ke/article/2001288767/drug-trafficking-politicians-linked-to-heroin

Mexico’s new president may have a huge effect on the US drug crisis

Britain launches slavery inquiry amid concern over child drug runners

The Environmental Impact of Drugs

Bangladesh launches Philippine-style drug war; death toll hits 200: Rights group

Drugs Trade Going Unnoticed
TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

Scales, Horns and Skins: Available Online, All Day, Everyday
Roxanne Joseph – The Revelator: 19 July 2018

The internet is fueling an increase in wildlife trafficking due to global networking and the speed with which transactions occur. On the internet, traffickers can disguise their wares as legal because the items cannot be examined in person. Researchers have had some success trying to determine the impact of the online trade, but it is difficult.

https://therevelator.org/scales-horns-skins-online/

Engaging local people in Madagascar to protect critically endangered tortoises
Stumai George – Landscape News: 17 July 2018

Shifting cultural norms are threatening a critically endangered wild tortoise. The beautiful tortoise is illegal to trade or even remove from native areas, and for many years the local population left them alone. Yet the tortoises are now highly trafficked, and authorities are trying to engage the locals to help with conservation.


For more on this theme:
Leopards, pythons and zebras turned into potions, boots and lamps. This warehouse holds the grisly goods of an illegal trade

Through Education and Research, a Second Life for Animal Contraband
https://undark.org/article/through-education-and-research-a-second-life-for-animal-contraband/

Seashell Souvenirs Are Killing Protected Marine Life

The menace of illegal trade of cigarettes
http://www.ft.lk/opinion/The-menace-of-illegal-trade-of-cigarettes/14-659276

The global illicit trade: Where is the Philippines?
http://business.inquirer.net/254039/global-illicit-trade-philippines

Shortcomings in CITES caviar labelling system poses a risk to sturgeons

Illegal Gold Mining in Peru Is Devastating the Amazon

Peru’s Indigenous Masenawa Use App To Stop Illegal Miners

Illegal fishing being targeted from all angles
**HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND IRREGULAR MIGRATION**

**Banks get tools to spot human traffickers moving illicit profits**  
*Ellen Wulfhorst – Reuters: 19 July 2018*

Financial institutions are stepping up their efforts to identify traffickers, who depend on banks to conduct operations. When using banks, traffickers leave behind a slew of financial footprints that can be tracked.


**Responding to the Human Trafficking–Migrant Smuggling Nexus**  
*The Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime: July 2018*

Libya is a hub for both migrant smuggling and human trafficking. The two are often conflated, however, conveniently burying the migrant crisis under the guise of a human trafficking problem.


*For more on this theme:*

**Davina Durgana Is Fighting Human Trafficking With The Skill You’d Least Expect**  

**UCC partners with ministry to offer degree in human trafficking**  

**Too good to be true? Slum graffiti warns Kenyans about trafficking risks**  

**How a train passenger’s simple tweet saved 26 girls from a horrific fate.**  

**Fighting human trafficking in Nepal: on patrol with the activists trying to put a stop to sex trade to India, China and the world**  

**An underreported facet of human trafficking: Underworking**  

**The EU is sending migrants home – into the hands of people smugglers**  
https://www.spectator.co.uk/2018/07/the-eu-is-sending-migrants-home-into-the-hands-of-people-smugglers/

**The rise of smuggler, migrant boats off California coast has law enforcement changing tactics**  
INTERNET GOVERNANCE

India, United Kingdom to cooperate in the governance of the internet, cyber-crime and cyber-security
Samaya Dharmaraj – Open Gov: 15 July 2018

India and the United Kingdom signed a memorandum of understanding to cooperate on issues related to cyber security, cyber crime and internet governance.


For more on this theme:

(Singapore, France) France-Singapore Road Map for deepening cooperation in digital innovation, internet governance and cybersecurity (13 July 2018)

(Europe) Flagship NGI Forum event in Portugal in September will help design an ‘Internet of Human Values’

(Tanzania) Multi-stakeholder platform on internet launched in Dar

INTERNET FREEDOM

Reports of the Death of Internet Freedom Are Greatly Exaggerated
Jason Pielemeier – Council on Foreign Relations: 9 July 2018

The discussion of what the internet does has changed dramatically over the past several years, from talk of freedom and liberation to fear that it enables hate speech and allows companies and nations to surveil and censor. But it is too early to be so fatalistic about the internet’s value and potential.

https://www.cfr.org/blog/reports-death-internet-freedom-are-greatly-exaggerated

For more on this theme:

(U.S., Global) The Cybersecurity 202: Anti-censorship tool opens new rift between lawmakers and tech companies

(China) Blockchain Is Helping to Circumvent Censorship in China
EU, China setting global cyber standards
Tim Starks – Politico: 19 July 2018
The European Union’s General Data Protection Regulation has set privacy standards that companies such as Facebook and Google must follow. China has been even more aggressive, enacting a cyber law with strict security controls on tech companies and spreading its heavy-handed model throughout the developing world.
For more on this theme:
(Global) The biggest threat in cybersecurity? The talent shortage.
(Global) Cyber security and data privacy: what are you over-looking?
(Global) The Two Biggest Disruptions To Cybersecurity Since The Invention Of The Firewall

Justice Department unveils strategy to fight election meddling, cybercrime
Eric Geller – Politico: 19 July 2018
The U.S. Department of Justice recently released a report describing the threats the U.S. faces in the cyber realm and what the department plans to do to mitigate, counter, investigate and deter those threats.
For more on this theme:
(Global) Is cyber the perfect weapon?
(U.S.) Michelli outlines cybersecurity, AI strategies for DOD
(U.K.) ‘Pressing need’ for new UK cyber security strategy, report reveals
PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

Protecting financial services sector from security threats gets boost from public-private partnership

Navin Sregantan – Business Times: 18 July 2018

Singapore’s Cyber Security Agency has partnered with the global nonprofit Financial Services Information Sharing and Analysis Centre to glean cyber threat intelligence for the country’s financial industry.


For more on this theme:

(Malaysia) MDEC, Axiata partnership to boost Malaysia’s cyber-security industry


(Australia) The Australian government opens its fourth joint cybersecurity center


(U.S.) Georgia Cyber Center Opens In Augusta

https://www.smartresilient.com/georgia-cyber-center-opens-augusta

PROTECTION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Can Anything Stop Cyber Attacks?

Knowledge@Wharton: 19 July 2018

Fighting cyber threats has never been more critical, but it has also never been more difficult. Threat actors are more sophisticated than ever before. An inclusive approach to hardening the defenses of all involved stakeholders is critical to success.

http://knowledge.wharton.upenn.edu/article/creating-tougher-defenses-cyber-attacks/

For more on this theme:

(Europe) More than a million Europeans spoke out to stop internet-destroying censorship rules, but the fight’s not over

https://boingboing.net/2018/07/16/summer-of-rage.html

(China, U.S.) House Intel Committee Witnesses Target Chinese Cyber, IP Threats


(Global) Researchers detect fresh activity in Blackgear cyber espionage campaign

CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING

Measures taken by Thailand to amp up its cybersecurity
Michell Christopher – Open Gov: 20 July 2018

Thailand’s Digital Economy and Society Ministry plans to establish a cyber security agency to serve Thailand’s digital economy. Cyber security is a key issue to the government as Thailand works to achieve its Smart Nation vision.

https://www.opengovasia.com/articles/measures-taken-by-thailand-to-amp-up-its-cybersecurity

For more on this theme:

(Barbados) Govt looking to create ‘a smart Barbados’
https://barbadostoday.bb/2018/07/19/govt-looking-to-create-a-smart-barbados/

(Nigeria) Digital Technology Will Enhance Governance, Policy Formulation, Experts Say

(New Zealand) Fears of cyber threats delaying digital transformation

COMBATING TERRORISM AND CYBER CRIME

The Industrialization of Cybercrime
Tamas Gaidosch – Inter Press Service: 18 July 2018

Cyber crime has moved away from the lone wolf hackers just trying to prove they could do it and toward a sophisticated organization in the business of making a profit, turning cyber crime into an industry.

http://www.ipsnews.net/2018/07/the-industrialization-of-cybercrime/

For more on this theme:

(Ireland) Irish firms increasing security spend to fight cyber crime - but human error is biggest threat

(Global) Time to Yank Cybercrime into the Light
https://www.darkreading.com/attacks-breaches/time-to-yank-cybercrime-into-the-light/a/d-id/1332231

(Global) When Bankers Need to be More Creative than Hackers: Cybercrime and Money Laundering
INFORMATION SHARING

NATO’s Real Spending Emergency Is in Cyberspace
James Stavridis and Dave Weinstein – Bloomberg: 18 July 2018

NATO must work on its cyber readiness. The first order of business should be sharing intelligence and threat information regarding the cyber realm.


For more on this theme:

(U.K.) Cyber security watchdog issues law firm warning
https://www.legalfutures.co.uk/latest-news/cyber-security-watchdog-issues-law-firm-warning

CYBER PROTECTION OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Forward-Thinking Strategies Can Secure the Power Grid
Ryan Brichant – Nextgov: 19 July 2018

Defending critical infrastructure must include both the physical arena and the cyber realm.


For more on this theme:

(U.S.) Senate To Probe Growing Cybersecurity Threats, Is Energy Infrastructure Safe?

(U.S.) Why These Former Cybersecurity Officials Are Worried About the Census
http://time.com/5341881/2020-census-cybersecurity-concerns/

(U.S.) McCaul: U.S. should go on the cyber offensive if Russia hacks midterms
PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

ISIS

Uncovering the influence of ISIS in India
Kabir Taneja – Observer Research Foundation: 12 July 2018
This paper focuses on the influence of ISIS in India, chronicling its rise in the early 2000s to its supposed demise in 2017.

ISIS is making a comeback in Iraq just months after Baghdad declared victory
ISIS is conducting small-scale attacks in remote areas of Iraq, reminiscent of the group’s origins. The kidnappings, bombings and assassinations have left people fearful that the cycle is starting again.

For more on this theme:
Beyond the Headlines podcast: Is Iraq prepared for an ISIS resurgence?
https://www.thenational.ae/world/mena/beyond-the-headlines-podcast-is-iraq-prepared-for-an-isis-resurgence-1.749110
Conversations with an Ex-Soldier of the Islamic State
Commentary: The reality of Islamic State in Iraq
Islamic State targets rival jihadists and Islamists in northern Syria
Why the rise of ISIS in Srinagar is Kashmir’s gravest security threat
How the Islamic State Gets Its Drones
Know the psychology of ISIL
https://moderndiplomacy.eu/2018/07/15/6-know-the-psychology-of-isil/
The Damage Of Dammaj: How Sectarian Tensions Fuel ISIS In Yemen
TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

Factional Dynamics within Boko Haram
Omar S. Mahmood and Ndubuisi Christian Ani – Institute for Security Studies: 6 July 2018

This report is the first in a two-part study examining the dynamics of violent extremist organizations in the Lake Chad region of Africa. This portion of the study focuses on the factionalism within Boko Haram.


Hezbollah Designed A Video Game To Appeal To The U.S.
Ruth Sherlock – National Public Radio: 16 July 2018

Lebanese Hezbollah is trying to change hearts and minds. The group launched a video game aimed at Western audiences in which the group portrays itself as fighting terrorists, rather than being terrorists.

https://www.npr.org/2018/07/16/629588453/hezbollah-designed-a-video-game-to-appeal-to-the-u-s

For more on this theme:

Hundreds flee as Al Shabaab militants begin recruiting children

Al-Shabaab: Who are the East African jihadi group and what are their goals?

Ominous Silence: Why Has al-Shabaab Refrained From Condemning This Year’s World Cup?
https://jamestown.org/program/ominous-silence-why-has-al-shabaab-refrained-from-condemning-this-years-world-cup/

Boko Haram: Who are the Nigerian jihadist insurgents and how are they funded?

Hamas preparing for cyber war

Hamas leaders opt for gradual cease-fire

The Terrorist Semi-States of Hamas and Hezbollah

Taliban Leaders Declare a Halt to Bombings in Civilian Areas

ISIS targets Taliban in fight for Afghanistan
https://www.thenational.ae/world/asia/isis-targets-taliban-in-fight-for-afghanistan-1.750512
RADICALIZATION AND MESSAGING

How USAID Is Fighting Extremism with Women
Kathryn Quelle – Borgen Magazine: 20 July 2018

Women stand to lose a lot to terrorist organizations. Yet they have been recruited into many extremist groups, where they play a variety of roles. In fact, they often are used as recruiters to sustain the terror organizations.

http://www.borgenmagazine.com/fighting-extremism-with-women/

For more on this theme:
Want to understand Islamic extremism? The answer isn't in Islam — it's in the Cold War.

Sociologist uses Twitter to research criminological behavior online

‘Terrorist Intent’: How Finland’s Justice System Struggles to Tackle Terrorism Offenders

Govt takes steps to counter radicalization: BSF DG
COUNTERTERRORISM STRATEGIES

Machine Learning and Tracking Terrorists
Joel T. Meyer – The Cipher Brief: 12 July 2018

Information overload can be a problem for analysts when it comes to terrorism. But recent technology can help. Artificial intelligence can be used to predict trends in anonymized and aggregated raw data.

https://www.thecipherbrief.com/column_article/machine-learning-tracking-terrorists

For more on this theme:

Malaysia launches crackdown on Isis after threats to kill the king and prime minister

Presidents keep thinking of terrorism as a distraction. That’s dangerous.

Cost of counter-terrorism for civilians in Lake Chad countries
https://issafrica.org/iss-today/cost-of-counter-terrorism-for-civilians-in-lake-chad-countries

Easier said than done: using the justice system to counter terrorism
https://issafrica.org/iss-today/easier-said-than-done-using-the-justice-system-to-counter-terrorism