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COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

It's long past time for Congress and the Treasury to step up their global anti-corruption efforts
Clay R. Fuller – American Enterprise Institute: 30 July 2018

It’s time for the U.S. Congress to pass beneficial ownership legislation and other anti-corruption laws to restore American leadership and generate new opportunities for countries that follow the rules. Being able to identify the human owner of every business and its beneficiaries, such as organized crime, terrorist financing and official corruption, is key to fighting money laundering.

https://www.aei.org/publication/global-anti-corruption-efforts/

Cyprus Records Shed Light on Libya’s Hidden Millions
Sara Farolfi and Stelios Orphanides – Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project: 25 July 2018

A Moammar Gadhafi-era Libyan official is believed to have stolen more than $6 billion over 20 years, newly leaked records reveal. The former head of a contracting office in charge of developing Libya’s infrastructure siphoned money from foreign contracts and funneled it through confidential bank accounts in Cyprus.


For more on this theme:
Corruption in Mexico's Anticorruption Party

Ghani Asks Ulema to Mobilize The Nation Against Corruption
http://prod.tolonews.com/afghanistan/ghani-asks-ulema-mobilize-nation-against-corruption

Corruption thrives in the dark

Nigerian Authorities Participate in Anti-Corruption Project

US State Dept to Create Central America Corruption ‘Blacklist’

Fifa council members call for evidence of Qatar 2022 World Cup corruption claims

Corruption Networks Obstruct El Salvador Supreme Court Selection
DRUG TRAFFICKING

The New Criminal Group Hitting Mexico’s CJNG Where It Hurts
InSight Crime: 24 July 2018

A new criminal group, the Nueva Plaza Cartel, has emerged onto the drug trafficking scene in Mexico, feeding a new wave of violence in Guadalajara state. The cartel splintered off the Cartel Jalisco Nueva Generación (CJNG) and is allegedly headed by a former top CJNG lieutenant, Carlos Enrique Sánchez. It is aggressively challenging CJNG on its established turf and has attempted to assassinate the former attorney general of Jalisco.


Going Bananas: Flanders Transformed into Hub for International Cocaine Trafficking
Cecilia Anesi, Giulio Rubino, Pavla Holcova and Jan Kuciak – Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project: 20 July 2018

A Belgium-based international drug-trafficking ring with ties to the Italian Mafia has been smuggling large amounts of cocaine into Western Europe in fruit shipments from Costa Rica and Colombia. Slovak journalist Jan Kuciak and his fiancée were assassinated in February while he was investigating this story, which examines how Silvio Aquino, a former pizzeria manager, became a major drug kingpin in Belgium.


For more on this theme:

Drug Memes Are Taking Over: Why People Traffic Viral Cocaine Posts

War on drugs: Science or fiction?
http://www.ft.lk/columns/War-on-drugs—Science-or-fiction/4-660040

Dominican Republic and Venezuela: Cocaine Across the Caribbean

Middle-class cocaine users helping drug gangs destroy society, says Met chief

Why a Texas jury gets a case involving $67M worth of cocaine smuggled 9,000 miles across the high seas

Cartel leader convicted in Waco on federal drug trafficking conspiracy charges

Slain B.C. gangsters allegedly caught up in international murder plot
TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

Winrock connects the dots between illegal logging and climate change
Kelli Rogers – Devex: 31 July 2018

Because illegal loggers have become skilled at concealing their activities, it has been difficult for scientists to estimate total forest degradation and greenhouse gas emissions using traditional satellite imagery. But now a new method using aerial imagery and mapping algorithms automates the process and provides much more accurate figures.


To End Ivory Trafficking, Follow the Cash and Conflict
Marika Annunziata – Political Insights: 1 August 2018

International efforts to curb the trafficking of endangered animals and animal products have addressed the supply side of this illicit market by focusing primarily on fighting poaching and hunting and securing habitats. But now the demand side is receiving attention through bans on animal products such as ivory.


For more on this theme:

Identifying Global Patterns of Transshipment Behavior

Illegal Fishing Costing Sierra Leone $50 Million Annually
http://sierraexpressmedia.com/?p=85133

Exclusive: Illegal Tiger Trade Fed by ‘Tiger Farms,’ New Evidence Reveals

Peru park’s biodiversity at risk from illegal mining, drug production

Deal to Protect Waters Around ‘Jurassic Park Island’ Falls Through

Poroshenko’s veto on timber law provides cover to illegal logging, says Klympush-Tsintsadze

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND IRREGULAR MIGRATION

5 Strategies to Combat Human Trafficking in the Americas
Kelly Grant – InSight Crime: 30 July 2018

Human trafficking is one of the most profitable organized crime enterprises and continues to be a major humanitarian crisis. This article analyzes the problem and suggests five ways that law enforcement can address it, including increased public awareness, empowering relevant industries such as trucking, and suppressing financial gain through anti-money laundering efforts.

Thousands at Risk of Trafficking Amid Rohingya Refugee Crisis: IOM
International Organization for Migration: 31 July 2018

The International Organization for Migration, the United Nations agency responsible for tracking migration, warns that Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh are in grave danger of becoming victims of human trafficking if a strong, coordinated effort is not made by law enforcement and by supporting the refugees with aid to reduce vulnerability.

For more on this theme:
Italy: failed Northern League candidate held over migrant shootings

Migrant children sexually exploited to ‘pay’ for Italy-France crossing, says charity

Mexico Can’t Handle Your Tired, Poor, and Huddled Masses

Youth Hackathon in Colombia to Target Human Trafficking

How One Agency Built a Multimillion-Dollar Business in Migrant Children

European and Mediterranean Caritas groups united against slavery

Africa’s human trafficking is flourishing, and SA is on its route

PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

INTERNET GOVERNANCE
The US is not prepared to shape global internet policy
Jessica Conditt – Engadget: 1 August 2018

According to expert testimony at a U.S. Senate hearing on global internet governance, the U.S. is falling behind and lacks the resources and reputation to lead the conversation in a field it once dominated. The U.S. needs to work with its allies to prevent the authoritarian approaches of Russia and China from overly influencing international governance discussions.
INTERNET FREEDOM

Google Plans to Launch Censored Search Engine in China, Leaked Documents Reveal
Ryan Gallagher – The Intercept: 1 August 2018
A whistleblower at Google has revealed that the company plans to re-enter the Chinese internet market with a new search engine, named Dragonfly, after conceding to government demands that it censor certain search terms and blacklist designated websites. The revelation has led to widespread concerns about the future of internet freedom, including among Google’s own workforce.
https://theintercept.com/2018/08/01/google-china-search-engine-censorship/

For more on this theme:
(U.S.) 3D-printed guns: Nationwide restraining order granted after 8 states sue
(India) Govt’s internet shutdown rule challenged in Rajya Sabha
(Iran) Iran’s Telecommunications Company Illegally Reroutes Telegram App Traffic

PRIVACY AND SECURITY

Facebook Identifies an Active Political Influence Campaign Using Fake Accounts
Nicholas Fandos and Kevin Roose – The New York Times: 31 July 2018
Facebook detected and removed 32 pages and fake accounts that were attempting to create or increase conflict around divisive social issues. Tools and techniques used by these accounts were similar to those used by the infamous Russian government-backed Internet Research Agency to influence the 2016 U.S. presidential elections.
For more on this theme:

**(Israel, Global)** Amnesty International says employee targeted with Israeli spyware

**(India)** WhatsApp has been linked to lynchings in India. Facebook is trying to contain the crisis

**(Global)** Hackers breach Reddit systems, steal super old personal information

**CYBER STATECRAFT DEVELOPMENT**

**Cybercrime Legislation in the GCC Countries: Fit for Purpose?**
*Joyce Hakmeh – Chatham House: 4 July 2018*

The countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council need to revise and update their cyber security legislation. Current laws focus on limiting freedom of expression and fail to meet international legislative standards for structure and content, reducing their effectiveness.

https://www.chathamhouse.org/publication/cybercrime-legislation-gcc-countries-fit-purpose

For more on this theme:

**(Nigeria)** Nigeria launches app to fight human trafficking

**(U.S., Global)** What Alexander Hamilton Can Teach Us About Cyber Policy

**(U.S.)** Trump administration working on consumer data privacy policy

**PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP**

**Homeland Security Unveils Center to Combat Cyberthreats**
*John P. Mello Jr. – TechNewsWorld: 1 August 2018*

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security announced the opening of the National Risk Management Center, which will work to defend the nation’s critical infrastructure through greater cooperation between the public and private sectors. The center will formulate strategies and provide resources for organizations under cyber attack.

https://www.technewsworld.com/story/85479.html
PROTECTION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Is ‘Made in China 2025’ a Threat to Global Trade?
James McBride – Council on Foreign Relations: 2 August 2018
China’s new industrial policy is designed to make the country the world’s dominant force in high-tech manufacturing. However, the policy is built on the practice of acquiring, by hook or crook, intellectual property from advanced Western competitors and then improving on it.
https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/made-china-2025-threat-global-trade

For more on this theme:
(U.S., China) Congress Passes Bill Addressing China’s Theft of Intellectual Property

(Australia) Foreign agencies targeting military blueprints, defence chief Greg Moriarty warns

CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING

Fighting Chinese cyber-espionage could cost U.S. 5G dominance
Ryan Duffy – CyberScoop: 30 July 2018
U.S. efforts to block spying on American industry and government by Chinese telecommunications companies could have an adverse impact on development of the next-wave 5G internet and hurt American competitiveness.
https://www.cyerscoop.com/5g-network-huawei-zte-us-telecom/
COMBATING TERRORISM AND CYBER CRIME

Leafminer: New Espionage Campaigns Targeting Middle Eastern Regions
Symantec: 25 August 2018
Symantec has discovered a new threat actor attacking government and business networks in the Middle East. Saudi Arabia has been the primary target, but Israel has also been targeted. A list of targets, discovered during the investigation, is written in Farsi, indicating that Iran may be behind the threat.
https://www.symantec.com/blogs/threat-intelligence/leafminer-espionage-middle-east

For more on this theme:
(U.S., Global) FBI nabs alleged hackers in theft of 15M credit cards from Chipotle, others

(Global) Financial Crime Wave – AI, Blockchain and AML Unite, U.S. Fintech Update, Danske Bank and More

(Ukraine) Information and cyber security in the modern world: experience of the SSU

INFORMATION SHARING

DOE looks to double number of electric utilities sharing cyber threat data
Lauren C. Williams – FCW: 1 August 2018
The U.S. Department of Energy is expanding its cyber security information-sharing program, hoping to double the number of participating utilities. The DOE also conducts cyber intrusion simulations to prepare utilities for attacks.
For more on this theme:
(U.S.) Disclose.io: A safe harbor for hackers disclosing security vulnerabilities
(U.S.) How Blockchain Technology Could Be The Primary Key To Cybersecurity
https://www.evolving-science.com/information-communication/how-blockchain-technology-00743
(Ghana) The fight over Trump’s cyber strategy

CYBER PROTECTION OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE
The Next Cyber Battleground: Defending the U.S. Power Grid From Russian Hackers
Rob Knake – Foreign Affairs: 19 July 2018
While attention has been focused on Russian interference in American elections, a much bigger and potentially more likely threat is a Russian cyber attack against critical infrastructure, including the power grid. Russian hackers have previously shut down the power grid in Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine, and a steel mill in Germany.

For more on this theme:
(U.S.) Hackers breached US electric utilities: analysts
(U.S., Global) Securing Our Interconnected Infrastructure
https://www.darkreading.com/endpoint/securing-our-interconnected-infrastructure/a/d-id/1332375
(Global) Podcast: Why Bitcoin Miners Target Critical Infrastructure Networks

PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

ISIS
The Syrian Regime Is Using ISIS to Punish Civilians
Dr. Lina Khatib – Chatham House: 30 July 2018
Syria claims to be conducting a military campaign to liberate and protect all of Syria from ISIS and other terror groups. But is the Syrian regime ignoring pockets of ISIS influence to punish areas that defied the government? The province of Sweida, where a bloody ISIS attack occurred, is home to a Druze minority community that was divided in its approach to the Syrian uprising.
https://www.chathamhouse.org/expert/comment/syrian-regime-using-isis-punish-civilians
Afghan Army Takes Over After ISIS Attacks a Refugee Office
Rod Nordland and Fahim Abed – The New York Times: 31 July 2018

The Afghan National Army will assume control of security in Jalalabad after a series of terrorist attacks targeting civilians and attributed to ISIS. In the most recent attack, 15 people were killed when terrorists overran a government refugee office. It was the 10th assault on civilian targets this year.


For more on this theme:

Security Forces Continue Pursuit of ISIS Remnants, OIR Deputy Commander Says

Islamic State attacks show group is intent on killing Afghan peace hopes

Video Purports to Show Tajikistan Attackers Pledging Allegiance to ISIS

‘Horrors that can’t be told’: Afghan women report Islamic State rapes

150 Islamic State fighters surrender as Taliban routs militants in northern Afghanistan

Bringing Daesh to Justice: What the International Community Can Do

Special Report: How Iraq’s agricultural heartland is dying of thirst

UN Condemns Civilian Hostage Taking by Islamic State in Syria

Police case No. 329: What happened under Daesh

TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

A truck bomb in the Philippines tells peacemakers to make haste
The Economist: 2 August 2018

A truck bomb in Basilan, Philippines, likely perpetrated by Abu Sayyaf Group, killed nine soldiers and civilians as the Philippine government is working to reach a peace agreement to end decades of violence in the Mindanao region. After years of delay, the legislature passed a new law granting greater autonomy to the Muslim Bangsamoro people in return for a peace agreement with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, the main militant group. But after so many years of violence, the bombing shows that peace won’t come easily.

New data shows terror attacks are becoming less frequent and much less deadly

Luiz Romero – Quartz: 1 August 2018

The number of worldwide terror attacks has dropped for the third consecutive year, reaching the lowest level since 2012, according to the most recent update to the Global Terrorism Database. The trend corresponds to the rise and fall of ISIS. The number of attacks is still double what it was prior to 2012 and many times greater than a decade earlier.


For more on this theme:

Yemen’s Houthis halt Red Sea attacks for two weeks
https://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-yemen-security/yemens-houthis-halt-red-sea-attacks-for-two-weeks-idUKKBN1KL1W3

Italy: failed Northern League candidate held over migrant shootings

Egyptian forces kill five suspected militants north of Cairo: ministry

Knife attack leaves one Israeli dead two wounded: ‘Hamas revenge’

US designates 3 members of Lashkar-e-Tayyiba as terrorists

Manila court OKs US request for terror suspect’s extradition
https://www.apnews.com/a1221a97b6a64d6d9e2bd9d25060f5b7

11-month-old baby, mother killed in PKK terror attack in eastern Turkey

RADICALIZATION AND MESSAGING

Radicalisation in European cities: Hotbeds of anger and resentment

Farhard Khosrokhavar – Qantara.de: 30 July 2018

The author, a sociologist and director of studies at the School for Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences in Paris, says a significant factor in the radicalization of youths is their social environment. Concentrating immigrants in stigmatized neighborhoods that are cut off from mainstream society is a recipe for radicalization.

https://en.qantara.de/content/radicalisation-in-european-cities-hotbeds-of-anger-and-resentment
Tech giants face terror law in EU crackdown on internet hate
Natalia Drozdiak and Stephanie Bodoni – Bloomberg: 29 July 2018

Google, Twitter and Facebook say they have taken significant steps to eliminate terrorist content from their platforms. But that isn’t stopping the European Union from threatening to fine those tech giants and every internet platform that fails to take down terrorist material, according to people familiar with proposals that could be unveiled in September.


For more on this theme:

New model IDs factors tied to muslim youth radicalization

A Shared Future: A report of the Greater Manchester Preventing Hateful Extremism and Promoting Social Cohesion Commission
file:///C:/Users/584025/Downloads/FINAL___Preventing_Hateful_Extremism_and_Promoting_Social_Cohesion_Report___update_July_31_2.pdf

Pre-school teachers criticised for failing to spot signs of extremism and radicalisation
https://metro.co.uk/2018/08/01/pre-school-teachers-criticised-failing-spot-signs-radicalisation-fives-7785788/

Camilla Thurlow investigates online radicalization
https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p06gcwh2

The threat from within: Erbil attack exposes radicalization in Kurdistan
http://www.kurdistan24.net/en/feature/e4a0d02b-5f7c-4573-a5c1-f742ff9ed03b

In Kashmir, Blood and Grief in an Intimate War: ‘These Bodies Are Our Assets’

IDF raids Hamas television station in West Bank, arrests employees

FOREIGN FIGHTERS

Behind the Isis ‘Beatle’ Elsheikh is a story of breakdown and despair
Nesrine Malik – The Guardian: 30 July 2018

The author, a distant relative of one of the foreign fighters dubbed the ISIS “Beatles” because of their British backgrounds and accents, writes that her relative fell under the influence of an imam who set him on a path to radicalization and to the upper ranks of ISIS.

https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/jul/30/isis-beatle-el-shafee-elsheikh-execution-radicalisation

Decisions near for man charged with helping Syria radicals
Emery P. Dalesio - The Associated Press: 31 July 2018

A plea agreement is expected soon for a North Carolina man charged with trying to join a terrorist group fighting in Syria. Arrested in 2013, Basit Sheikh was one of the first U.S. residents charged as part of the FBI’s effort to find people before they could travel to Syria and potentially return as battle-hardened radicals. He faces up to 15 years in prison if convicted.

For more on this theme:

**Hardcore ISIS Foreign Fighters ‘Who Represent Some of the Biggest Threats to Our Nations’ in New SDF Battle**

**Indonesia bans IS-linked group for fear of returning fighters**

**British man who fought ISIS in Syria has terror charges dropped**

**Benefits for terrorists in prison - against minister’s wishes**

**Germany arrests suspect over alleged Sri Lanka war crimes**
https://www.apnews.com/697dda42468410da741694c0c3010bd/Germany-arrests-suspect-over-alleged-Sri-Lanka-war-crimes

**Extremist sentenced to 17 years in prison for Australia plot**
https://www.apnews.com/6942f895cb974756a7945cf5850a75d4/Extremist-sentenced-to-17-years-in-prison-for-Australia-plot

**UK treason law ‘unfit to try ISIS fighters’**
https://www.thenational.ae/world/europe/uk-treason-law-unfit-to-try-isis-fighters-1.753883

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**COUNTERTERRORISM STRATEGIES**

**The threat that must be named**
*Shoshana Bryen and Eric Rozenman – The Washington Times: 1 August 2018*

To effectively address a problem, psychiatrists say, it must be accurately identified. The authors contend that to defeat the current threat we call terrorism, it too must be accurately named, pointing out that terrorism is just a technique, not the ideology that wields it as a weapon. We are no more fighting a “war on terrorism,” they say, than the United States was fighting a “war on surprise attacks” when it entered a war against the Japanese Empire in 1941.


**War of Words Between U.S. and Iran Escalates**
*Norman T. Roule – The Cipher Brief: 27 July 2018*

An escalating war of words has marked mounting tensions between the United States and Iran. Meanwhile, attacks by Iranian proxies against U.S. and Western allies in the Middle East, as well as several Iran-sponsored terrorist operations that were cracked by European security services over the past several months, are an indication that it may be time for collective action against Iran’s terrorist schemes.

https://www.thecipherbrief.com/column_article/war-of-words-between-u-s-and-iran-escalates
For more on this theme:

US military in Africa says changes made to protect troops  
https://apnews.com/0e3e12129335400f9d1ac69f40d60b29/US-military-in-Africa-says-changes-made-to-protect-troops

Daesh on the rebound: Is anybody watching?  
http://www.arabnews.com/node/1347491

The Trouble With Counter-Terrorism Partnerships: Tackling The Toughest Cases  

US Counterterrorism strikes: Tempo remains high in Somalia and Yemen, transparency improves  

Militant candidates  

Lack of information on counter-terrorism strategy ‘fuelling Muslim fears’  
https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/uk/lack-of-information-on-counterterrorism-strategy-fuelling-muslim-fears-37166984.html

Is Afghanistan Ready for Peace?  