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COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

Corruption is the single biggest hindrance to progress
The National: 9 August 2018

With rampant corruption in the Middle East, the positive changes to combat corruption in Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon are a small step in the right direction for the region.
https://www.thenational.ae/opinion/editorial/corruption-is-the-single-biggest-hindrance-to-progress-1.758526

A call to youth to do its duty in the fight against corruption
Joshua Hantman – Standard Digital: 10 August 2018

President Uhuru Kenyatta is encouraging Kenyan youth to step up and play a critical role in ending the corruption cycle.

For more on this theme:
Will the G20 deliver on anti-corruption in 2018?
https://www.transparency.org/news/feature/will_the_c20_push_global_leaders_to_deliver_on_anti_corruption

Guatemala: Anti-Corruption Group Urges Revamp of Justice System

Macedonia Criticised for ‘Disappointing’ Progress on Corruption

Corruption Watch report shows disturbing amount of bribery and embezzlement

On corruption and the corrupt: a purge might do

Minister, MPs Trade Charges of Corruption, Blackmail During Impeachment

Tell-tale signs we are beginning to win fight against corruption
https://www.standardmedia.co.ke/article/2001290929/tell-tale-signs-we-are-beginning-to-win-fight-against-corruption

Peru’s Judicial Corruption Scandal, Explained

Kyrgyzstan’s north-south road to corruption
https://www.opendemocracy.net/od-russia/satina-aidar/kyrgyzstans-north-south-road-to-corruption
**DRUG TRAFFICKING**

**Azerbaijan: A River Of Illegal Drugs Runs Through It**
 Tony Wesolowsky – Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty: 4 August 2018

As a top transit country between Afghanistan, Iran and Europe, Azerbaijan is in dire straits when it comes to drug addiction and trafficking.


**Colombia’s young, pro-American leader takes office, faces challenge to meet Trump’s expectations**
 Anne Gearan and Anthony Faiola – The Washington Post: 7 August 2018

Colombian President Ivan Duque has pledged to permanently eradicate coca cultivation in a country often known as the cocaine capital of the world.


*For more on this theme:*

Don't ignore role drug trafficking plays in fueling Chicago street violence

New patrol boats lay siege to drug traffickers in Punta Burica

Deaths from fentanyl nearly double in a year as total drug fatalities reach record levels in England and Wales

Duterte claims ‘lame duck’ status, tells cops to continue drug war amid suits, criticisms

The Zetas, Drug Money and the Colom Campaign in Guatemala
https://www.insightcrime.org/investigations/the-zetas-drug-money-colom-campaign-guatemala/

Heroin hits South Africa along the ‘highway to impunity’
https://issafrica.org/iss-today/heroin-hits-south-africa-along-the-highway-to-impunity

‘Peace’ Brings More Murder and Cocaine to Colombia’s Rebel Zones

Should America legalize all drugs? This story should give supporters pause.
TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

In Plane Sight: Wildlife Trafficking in the Air Transport Sector
TRAFFIC: 6 August 2018

Lax airport authorities are allowing wildlife traffickers to get away with murder. A new report produced by the research organization C4ADS claims traffickers are “highly dependent” on commercial air transport systems to smuggle the endangered species and animal parts.
https://www.traffic.org/publications/reports/in-plane-sight/

‘Ivory store’ which caused outrage in Singapore is part of wildlife group’s campaign to raise awareness
Jose Hong – The Straits Times: 7 August 2018

The World Wildlife Fund used a fake online store and social media accounts to feign sales of vintage, or pre-1990, ivory jewelry. Under Singapore’s current law, ivory that entered the country before 1990 is fair game for sellers.

For more on this theme:
Conservation: Elephant poaching on the increase in Botswana
https://www.thesouthafrican.com/conservation-elephant-poaching-on-the-increase-in-botswana/

Children learn about wildlife protection

South Sudan alarmed by raising elephant poaching

Wildlife Forensics

Global Witness: Deadliest year on record for environmental defenders

Militarisation alone will not end poaching – Environmental Affairs Minister

War on sharks: How rogue fishing fleets plunder the ocean’s top predator

Myanmar overhauls forestry body amid surge in illegal logging
www.atimes.com/article/amid-surging-illegal-logging-myanmar-restructures-forestry-body/

Women leaders protect the forest and the future

Over 2 million people engage in illegal mining for survival — FG
HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND IRREGULAR MIGRATION

Trading on human tides – the ‘free market’ of people smuggling
University of Cambridge: 31 July 2018

Cambridge criminologists are using emerging sources of information — from court records to Facebook groups — to analyze the networks behind one of the fastest-growing black markets on the planet: the smuggling of people into Europe.

https://www.cam.ac.uk/research/features/trading-on-human-tides-the-free-market-of-people-smuggling

Facebook is helping ‘lure migrants to their deaths by failing to take down adverts posted by people smugglers’
Andy Dolan – The Daily Mail: 9 August 2018

Facebook enables criminals to lure migrants to their deaths, police have said after finding more than 800 pages promoting people-smuggling to Europe. The United Kingdom’s National Crime Agency said that the pages advertised fake documents and transport services, including instructions on where to board boats.

http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-6045151/Facebook-helping-lure-migrants-deaths-failing-adverts.html

For more on this theme:

Human Trafficking in Nepal – Relentless Fight for Rights Continues!

Interpol to fight human trafficking

Using Social Media To Combat Human Trafficking

The Trafficking of persons (Prevention, protection, and rehabilitation) Bill:
Transporting stolen lives from a hopeless present to an optimistic future

New Zealand determined to stamp out people smuggling

Sri Lanka reiterates commitment to combat people smuggling in the region
http://www.colombopage.com/archive_18B/Aug09_1533796429CH.php

Superstition drives child sex trafficking in Peru’s gold rush

Does the anti-trafficking Bill address trafficking?
https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/does-the-anti-trafficking-bill-address-trafficking/article24646941.ece
PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

INTERNET GOVERNANCE

‘Blockchain useful in transforming edu, creating good governance’
The Times of India: 6 August 2018
At an international blockchain conference in India, experts said that the technology can transform education, ensure road safety and create good governance.

For more on this theme:
(Asia) South Korea has the most effective e-governance in Asia
http://www.nationmultimedia.com/detail/asean-plus/30351776

(Global) Michael Dukakis seeks global accord for use of AI by governments

INTERNET FREEDOM

Google Welcome in China but Must Comply With Censorship: State Media
Jason Murdock – Newsweek: 7 August 2018
Reports have surfaced that Google is working on a search app and a news app that will be censored to comply with Chinese laws. The new software appears to be a turnabout of the company’s anti-censorship stance, which dates to Google’s decision in 2010 to effectively pull its search business out of China.

For more on this theme:
(Africa) Africa’s attack on internet freedom
https://www.independent.co.ug/africas-attack-on-internet-freedom/

(U.S.) Facebook Banned Infowars. Now What?

(China) China Reshuffles Its Censorship Chiefs
PRIVACY AND SECURITY

Two-Thirds of Organizations Don’t Use Hardening Benchmarks to Establish a Secure Baseline, Report Reveals
Ray Lapena – Security Boulevard: 9 August 2018

A new survey from Tripwire, a security and compliance automation software provider, found that organizations need to go back to basics and make sure they are properly implementing and maintaining cyber security fundamentals. The survey found that organizations are not focusing on basic security controls that the Center for Internet Security refers to as “cyber hygiene.”


For more on this theme:

(U.S.) The future of online privacy: To legislate or not
https://www.brookings.edu/events/the-future-of-online-privacy-to-legislate-or-not/

(Global) The Internet of Things Needs Food Safety-Style Ratings for Privacy and Security

(Global) From Radiation Detection To Flood Defenses, Smart City Security Really Sucks

CYBER STATECRAFT DEVELOPMENT

The U.S. Is Bracing for Possible Cyberattacks After Iran Sanctions
Deb Reichmann – The Associated Press: 8 August 2018

After reimposing sanctions on Iran, the U.S. is preparing for the possibility that Iran and/or its proxies will launch cyber attacks against U.S. interests.

https://www.apnews.com/d910275db6c0465ca27da40c4331b949

For more on this theme:

(Russia, U.S.) Is a U.S.-Russia Cyber Security Working Group Silly?
https://www.technative.io/is-a-u-s-russia-cyber-security-working-group-silly/

(India) A Great Firewall with Indic characteristics
https://factordaily.com/a-great-firewall-with-indic-characteristics/
PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

Partnership with Internet Companies: the Council of Europe enhances shared commitment to protect Human Rights online
Council of Europe: 8 August 2018

Businesses play a critical role when it comes to human rights online because they control the infrastructure. The Council of Europe is partnering with companies to allow corporations to give input into shaping internet policy.


For more on this theme:

(Caribbean) Internet experts call for more Community Networks in the Caribbean

(U.S.) Cybersecurity National Risk Management Center launched by DHS

(U.S.) Cybersecurity needs public-private partnerships, officials say
http://www.autonews.com/article/20180803/OEM06/180809872/cybersecurity-summit-detroit

PROTECTION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Here are three ways to ensure the internet’s future is creative, collaborative, and fair
Claudio Cocorocchia – Qrius: 8 August 2018

Last month, the European Commission (EC) rejected controversial legislation intended to redefine copyright for the internet. This article suggests three things that the EC should apply in conceiving a modern copyright directive for the creative economy.


For more on this theme:

(U.S., China) Will Trump’s tariffs stop Chinese espionage?
https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-45098080

(Europe) Top Euro court: No, you can’t steal images from other websites (too bad a school had to be sued to confirm this little fact)
https://www.theregister.co.uk/2018/08/08/europe_supreme_court_copyrighted_images/

(Global) How Blockchain Can Benefit the Intellectual Property Industry
CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING

Germany struggles to step up cyberdefense
Sumi Somaskanda – Deutsche Welle: 7 August 2018

With cyber attacks on the rise, Germany is looking to the military’s Cyber and Information Domain Service to improve its defenses.


For more on this theme:

(Bolivia) Spotlight on Bolivia: How Bolivia Tech Hub became a collaborative space for La Paz’s top tech entrepreneurs

(U.S.) Harris Public Policy announces first-of-its-kind initiative to inform cyber policy

(Europe) CRIME: Cyprus leads the way in dealing with cyber threats says Europol

COMBATING TERRORISM AND CYBER CRIME

No, The Mafia Doesn’t Own Cybercrime: Study
Kelly Jackson Higgins – Dark Reading: 8 August 2018

New research indicates that organized crime syndicates play less of a role in cyber crime than previously thought.


For more on this theme:

(Global) Rise of the cyber mafia: How organised crime went digital

(U.S.) IoT security warning: Your hacked devices are being used for cyber crime says FBI

(Global) Only public awareness will stop cyber-crime
http://www.nationmultimedia.com/detail/national/30351482
INFORMATION SHARING

Fortinet Signs Cyber Threat Information Sharing Agreement with IBM
Nasdaq: 7 August 2018
IBM and the cyber security software firm Fortinet have expanded their strategic relationship by agreeing to share intelligence to help customers respond to emerging threats more quickly.

For more on this theme:
(U.S.) How Washington Can Prevent Midterm Election Interference

(Global) Requirements to Action: Cyber Threat Intelligence

(U.S.) FBI Task Force Sharing Information About Online Trolls
https://www.voanews.com/a/fbi-task-force-sharing-information-about-online-trolls/4516728.html

CYBER PROTECTION OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

New cyberattacks against urban water services possible, warn researchers
Phys.org: 9 August 2018
Researchers at Ben-Gurion University in Israel have found security weaknesses in popular commercial irrigation systems that could allow hackers to empty a city’s water reservoir.

For more on this theme:
(Global) Satellite Communications Hacks Are Real, And They're Terrifying

(U.S.) Cyber report details tricks used by hackers to target critical infrastructure

(U.S.) Data is the oil of the 21st century
ISIS

On the backfoot, Islamic State turns to old tactics to gain new strength
Maya Gebeily – Agence France-Presse: 7 August 2018
ISIS is returning to its guerrilla roots and focusing on executions and kidnappings to maintain relevance.

Dissent in IS Ranks; Al-Baghdadi Still in Charge?
Jamie Dettmer – Voice of America: 9 August 2018
Internal dissent among ISIS members is centered on the “Iraqization” of ISIS leadership and anger with the upper ranks.

For more on this theme:
Afghan Woman Lifts Lid On Life Under Islamic State
https://www.rferl.org/a/afghan-woman-on-life-under-islamic/29425655.html

The dangers of an Islamic State resurgence in Iraq and Kurdistan

Why Tajik Authorities Are Denying the Reality of the Islamic State Attack

The Islamic State Threat to Syria’s Regime
https://lobelog.com/the-islamic-state-threat-to-syrias-regime/

Georgian members of Islamic State threaten to take revenge
http://agenda.ge/news/105208/eng

Confrontations break out between security personnel, Islamic State, north of Baghdad

Jakarta fails yet again to counter Islamic State threats

How the Islamic State caliphate was lost
https://www.newstatesman.com/world/middle-east/2018/08/how-islamic-state-caliphate-was-lost

Four Years on, Evidence of ISIS Crimes Lost to Time
https://www.hrw.org/news/2018/08/03/four-years-evidence-isis-crimes-lost-time

ISIS IS NOT Contained. Here’s Proof
https://clarionproject.org/isis-is-not-contained-heres-proof/
TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

Taliban claim to be preparing onslaught to drive Islamic State from Afghan stronghold
Ben Farmer and Saleem Mehsud – The Telegraph: 7 August 2018

Taliban commanders are planning a major offensive to force ISIS out of Nangarhar province in Afghanistan.


Boko Haram Faction Releases Book on History and Ideology
Jacob Zenn – Council on Foreign Relations: 9 August 2018

The Islamic State in West Africa Province released a book about how and why it functions as it does. The 124-page book in Arabic was written by “two sons” of the late Boko Haram leader Muhammed Yusuf.


For more on this theme:

Nigeria’s Battle With Boko Haram
https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/nigerias-battle-boko-haram

Terrorism Defined and Why It Matters

Al-Qaeda and ISIS are on Their Heels in Yemen, But Will Return Unless We Help Build a Lasting Peace

Conference examines charcoal smuggling and terrorism
http://www.defenceweb.co.za/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=52698&catid=87&Itemid=188

The Changing Face of Extremist Groups - Girls and Women Being Recruited for Suicide Missions

The Al Qaeda - Iran Connection

Osama bin Laden’s Son Marries 11/9 Hijackers Daughter, Defies Family and Joins Al-Qaeda

EU report details international web of Hezbollah terror funding

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RADICALIZATION AND MESSAGING

Radicalized children pose security 'risk' in Germany: report
Maxime Schlee – Politico: 6 August 2018

Germany’s domestic intelligence chief has warned that children growing up in Islamist families in Germany may pose a risk to society. Conservative politicians say authorities should be allowed to monitor kids under 14.


Defeating home-grown American terrorism — an Italian lesson
Simon Clark – The Hill: 3 August 2018

Learning lessons from the Italian experience of the 1970s could prove useful for Americans looking to defeat homegrown terrorism.


For more on this theme:

To Syria And Back: How 2 Women Escaped Their Radicalized Husbands

Family Terrorism: How terrorists recruit nowadays

Survey: Three Million, Mostly Uyghurs, in Some Form of Political ‘Re-Education’ in Xinjiang

IG partner with schools to promote anti-radicalization
http://www.kenyanews.go.ke/ig-partner-with-schools-to-promote-anti-radicalization/

Are Prisons Conveyor Belts to Jihad?
https://www.algemeiner.com/2018/08/06/are-prisons-conveyor-belts-to-jihad/

Female Jihadists Are a Growing Problem

The flaws in Kazakhstan’s approach to combating extremism
FOREIGN FIGHTERS

US transferring some ISIS detainees from Syria to their home countries
Ryan Browne – CNN: 7 August 2018

The U.S. military has been transferring dozens of captured ISIS foreign fighters from Syria to their countries of origin, according to multiple U.S. officials. However, hundreds of foreign fighters remain in detention in Syria.


For more on this theme:

Pentagon praises Macedonia for repatriation of ISIS foreign fighters

US Sent ISIS Detainees to Possible Abuse

For the first time, Italy arrests far-right Italians who fought in Ukraine

Five more suspected foreign fighters stripped of Australian citizenship
http://www.abc.net.au/radio/programs/am/five-suspected-is-fighters-stripped-of-australian-citizen-ship/10092724

COUNTERTERRORISM STRATEGIES

How Transitional Justice Can Help the U.S. Defeat Terrorism
Jamie D. Wise and Alice Hunt Friend – Just Security: 6 August 2018

The U.S. needs a better preventive approach to terrorism. Transnational justice can disrupt the radicalization process and help counter violent extremism before it goes kinetic.

https://www.justsecurity.org/60027/transitional-justice-defeat-terrorism/

For more on this theme:

The Answer to Combating the Next ISIS Could be Found in Indonesia

Counterproductive Counterterrorism in Afghanistan and Yemen
https://nationalinterest.org/blog/paul-pillar/counterproductive-counterterrorism-afghanistan-and-yemen-28242

African delegations trained on counterterrorism