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COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

Guatemala’s president tries to shut down anti-corruption group investigating him
Joshua Partlow – The Washington Post: 5 September 2018

Guatemala’s government barred the head of a United Nations anti-corruption agency from entering the country after an escalation of a long-running dispute between the two sides.


Deadly protests rage in Iraq over lack of services as political transition deadlocks
Tamer El-Ghobashy – The Washington Post: 5 September 2018

Six people were killed by Iraqi security forces during protests in Basra over corruption and a lack of basic needs.


For more on this theme:

Myanmar state counsellor calls for anti-corruption society

German FM: “Growing polarization” in Romania over corruption
https://apnews.com/c339fec3d6904911bbc13a6b53ad76275

A New ‘Taxonomy Of Corruption’ In Nigeria Finds 500 Different Kinds

There is a surprisingly simple solution to our corruption problem

Africa must leverage youth capacities for the fight against corruption – says Ben Kaifala

Corruption: A Human Rights Impact Assessment

U.S., EU Warn Ukraine Ruling Endangers Press Freedom, Corruption Fight

Italy moves against corruption with ‘bribe destroyer’ bill

Top 10 most corrupt countries in the world
https://bigthink.com/paul-ratner/top-10-worlds-most-corrupt-countries
DRUG TRAFFICKING

Child vendors selling drugs on the increase in Kabul
MENAFN: 30 August 2018

Children selling illegal drugs in Kabul, Afghanistan, is becoming a common sight. Dealers give them drugs to sell on the city’s busy streets.


Houthi and Hezbollah ‘trafficking drugs to fund military operations’
Noor Nugali – Arab News: 4 September 2018

“Houthi militias have been trafficking drugs, which the Yemeni security forces with the support of the coalition have been fighting to stop,” said Col. Turki Al-Maliki, spokesman for the Saudi-led Arab coalition. He explained that the Houthi militias work with Hezbollah to supply the drugs.

http://www.arabnews.com/node/1366401/saudi-arabia

For more on this theme:

- UA Research to Study Impact ‘War on Drugs’ Has on Smuggling Routes
  http://www.newswise.com/articles/ua-research-to-study-impact-war-on-drugs-has-on-smuggling-routes

- Forced disappearances in Mexico’s drug war

- Drug Trafficking in Thailand on the Rise as Producers Gain Access to New Chemicals

- Georgia, Azerbaijan Fight Drug Trafficking

- Effective Anti-Drug Campaign Demands Strong Int’l Action

- The body count of mayors in the Philippines is going up as Duterte’s drug war rages on

- The Chitta economy: How the business of drugs works in Punjab

- Opinion: Cannabis legalization needs to consider children’s rights
  http://dailyhive.com/grow/cannabis-legalization-childrens-rights

- Inside Lagos’ headquarters of marijuana trade

- Drug addiction should be public health issue, not crime, says expert
TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

**AI is helping humans do a better job bringing poachers to justice**
Jackie Bischof – Quartz: 3 September 2018

Using artificial intelligence to combat wildlife trafficking is becoming more common. It enhances the work of conservationists by sorting through mountains of data far more quickly and efficiently than humans can.


**Wildlife Poaching and Trafficking: Combating a Source of Terrorist Funding**
United States Institute of Peace: 17 July 2018

U.S. Rep. Ed Royce, a Republican from California and chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, and U.S. Sen. Chris Coons, a Democrat from Delaware and a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, discussed the intersection of wildlife trafficking and terrorism funding and the successes, challenges and next steps for U.S. policymakers.


For more on this theme:

South African Freight Forwarders Recognise Opportunities to Combat Wildlife Trafficking in Supply Chains at SAAFF Congress 2018

Bipartisan Lawmakers Fight Illegal Wildlife Trafficking, Promote Smart Development for Conservation

Govt teams up to combat wildlife trafficking threat

Myanmar Ranks Near Bottom of Global Illegal Trade Index

Are governments doing enough to stop wildlife crime?
http://www.bbqonline.co.za/articles/are-governments-doing-enough-to-stop-wildlife-crime-26567.html

87 Elephants Killed by Poachers in Africa’s ‘Last Safe Haven’

Shell game: U.S. traffickers cater to Asia’s taste for turtles

Scientists pin down fraud that fuels illegal Amazon logging
HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND IRREGULAR MIGRATION

Scrapping China's two-child policy boosts hope to end bride trafficking
Beh Lih Yi – Reuters: 29 August 2018

By reversing its position on family planning, China may be able to help stop the trafficking of women into China as brides for its large male-dominated population. Chinese men who struggle to find a wife locally often turn to illicit marriage brokers who recruit women from across Asia and sell them as brides.


New EU Migration Plan Aims to Speed Up Claims Processing & Create Deals with Countries of Origin
Kaitlin Lavinder – South EU Summit: 31 August 2018

Europe has a new plan for dealing with migrants and refugees. The strategy calls for developing agreements with countries of origin for returning migrants and addressing the root causes of the migration crisis, and for establishing new migrant centers in European Union countries to process asylum claims more quickly.


For more on this theme:

Tunisia isn't a migrant transit country – yet
https://issafrica.org/iss-today/tunisia-isnt-a-migrant-transit-country-yet

The New Slave Trade: Migration, Trafficking, and Terrorists in Libya

Migrants become informants to provide valuable ‘intel’ against mafia

A ‘Safe Third Country’ Agreement With Mexico Won't Fix U.S. Migratory Challenges

Is the ‘Australia solution’ the answer to Europe's immigration crisis?

Forced into The Arms of Smugglers

Human trafficking continues unabated
https://thehimalayantimes.com/kathmandu/human-trafficking-continues-unabated/

The National Human Rights Commission says Human Trafficking remains a huge challenge to Nigeria.

http://www.aitonline.tv/post-national_human_rights_commission_says_human_trafficking_remains_a_major_challenge
PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

INTERNET GOVERNANCE

A Beginner’s Guide To The Decentralized Internet
Lisa Blanning – Electronic Beats: 5 September 2018
To get out from under the thumb of Google, Facebook and other tech giants, many believe a new internet is necessary. Internet decentralization is still in its early stages of development, but it is a hot topic that could change the way we experience the internet.
http://www.electronicbeats.net/a-beginners-guide-to-the-decentralized-internet/

For more on this theme:
(Estonia) Estonia: the world’s most advanced digital society?
https://www.raconteur.net/technology/estonia-digital-society
(U.S.) Google’s Problem and Ours
https://www.cato.org/blog/googles-problem-ours
(Global) Centralized Government vs. Yet Bigger Data

INTERNET FREEDOM

Chinese Activist Who Shared Anti-Censorship Techniques in Secret Trial
Yang Fan – Radio Free Asia: 6 September 2018
Zhen Jianghua was detained by the Chinese government a year ago on suspicion of “incitement to subvert state power.” According to reports, a secret trial was held in August on charges he shared anti-censorship techniques.

For more on this theme:
(Global) The ‘deep web’ may be 500 times bigger than the normal web. Its uses go well beyond buying drugs
(Global) Censorship of the web is already a worldwide norm, not the exception
https://www.thenational.ae/opinion/comment/censorship-of-the-web-is-already-a-worldwide-norm-not-the-exception-1.766944
(U.K.) UK media giants call for independent oversight of Facebook, YouTube, Twitter
PRIVACY AND SECURITY

Chamber Proposes Curbs on Consumer Lawsuits Over Data Privacy
Ben Brody – Bloomberg: 6 September 2018

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce is seeking to override California’s online privacy laws and shield companies from lawsuits when they violate those laws. In June, California passed the nation’s strictest data-sharing laws. Among other things, the laws require the companies to be more transparent about the personal data they collect and to allow consumers to delete personal information.


For more on this theme:

(Kenya) Kenya banks, telcos to file cyber security rules

(U.S.) Firefox Will Protect User Privacy By Blocking Tracking Cookies

(Israel) ‘A Shin Bet Puppet’// What Went Wrong With Israel’s Cybersecurity Agency

CYBER STATECRAFT DEVELOPMENT

Experts examine Asia’s approach to cybersecurity
Paul Park – Brookings: 28 August 2018

Security challenges are increasingly coming from cyberspace and are difficult to detect or attribute. “Cyber is a threat we can’t see,” Jung Pak, senior fellow at the Brookings Center for East Asia Policy Studies, said during a June conference at Brookings on cyber security in Asia.

https://www.brookings.edu/blog/order-from-chaos/2018/08/28/experts-examine-asias-approach-to-cybersecurity/

For more on this theme:

(China) China Becomes World’s Biggest Online Community
https://www.entrepreneur.com/article/318980

(U.K.) Lack of health minister stalling internet safety strategy

(U.S., Russia) The cyber Cold War: Russian and US security systems draw new lines on the map
https://www.army-technology.com/features/cyber-cold-war-russian-us-security-systems-draw-new-lines-map/
PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

Cyber Sustainability for Smarter Cities and Regions
Cynthia S. Artin – IOT Evolution: 5 September 2018

Smart cities are continuing to grow and expand. Partnerships between public and private organizations have been and will continue to be critical to the success of such cities.


For more on this theme:

(U.S.) WSJ Pro To Launch First Cybersecurity Small Business Academy

(U.S.) DHS Cyber Security Initiative Plans To Partner Public & Private Sectors

PROTECTION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Wikimedia warns EU copyright reform threatens the ‘vibrant free web’
Natasha Lomas – Tech Crunch: 4 September 2018

The Wikimedia Foundation is concerned about a copyright proposal that’s headed for a vote in the European Parliament. Fierce lobbying sets artists and publishers against free-speech activists and the tech industry, with the vote too close to call.


For more on this theme:

(U.S.) NSA official: Foreign hackers have ‘pummeled’ U.S. by stealing IP
https://www.cyberscoop.com/george-barnes-nsa-us-china-ip-theft/

(China, U.S.) China Is Using Cyberespionage Against U.S. to Gain Military and Technology Advantages, Report Reveals
CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING

Closing the digital and economic divides in rural America
Nicol Turner-Lee – Brookings: August 2018

Staunton, Virginia, is a typical rural city in need of high-speed broadband networks for economic and talent development.


For more on this theme:
(Africa) DBI chief urges African governments to invest in ICT skills
http://thenationonlineeng.net/dbi-chief-urges-african-governments-to-invest-in-ict-skills/

(U.S.) Shining light on dark fiber, other broadband networks

(Global) A Sting Exclusive: “Technology for all, development for all: the role of ITU”, written by the Secretary General of the United Nations Agency
https://europeansting.com/2018/09/05/technology-for-all-development-for-all-the-role-of-itu/

COMBATING TERRORISM AND CYBER CRIME

Senators Want President to Designate ‘Critical Cyber Threat Actors’ with Mandatory Sanctions
Bridget Johnson – PJ Media: 27 August 2018

The U.S. Congress is considering legislation that would require the president to designate people or entities that undertake malicious cyber actions against the U.S. as “critical cyber threat actors.” The legislation would require the government to have a “framework to deter and respond” to all state-sponsored cyber attacks.


For more on this theme:
(China) China active in fighting global cybercrimes

(U.S.) The Case for a National Cybersecurity Agency

(U.S., Global) Protecting patient data from cyber-attack
INFORMATION SHARING

This Blockchain Platform Wants to Reward Users for Sharing Their Data
Amy Tori – Tech Bullion: 31 August 2018

Social media sites collect our data and then sell it to advertisers, making users their product. ReChain, a blockchain-based rewards platform, wants to change that paradigm. “Within our ecosystem, advertisers will have the ability to reach highly targeted individuals who willingly provide their personal information in exchange for points and more relevant, less intrusive ads,” said Brian Moynihan, co-founder of ReChain.

https://www.techbullion.com/this-blockchain-platform-wants-to-reward-users-for-sharing-their-data/

For more on this theme:

(U.S.) How the U.S. Can Effectively Share Threat Information With Other Nations

(Europe) Cybersecurity threat keeps changing as new technology adopted

(U.S.) Breaking down the barriers to improve cyber threat information sharing

CYBER PROTECTION OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

The Cybersecurity 202: These researchers worry more about cybercriminals hacking the grid than nation-state hackers
Derek Hawkins – The Washington Post: 29 August 2018

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security is warning utility companies about nation-state hackers who seek to infiltrate the U.S. electrical grid. But a prominent cyber security firm says there’s another type of adversary that officials and utility operators need to watch out for.


For more on this theme:

(U.S.) Concerns raised about voting infrastructure security in mid-term elections

(U.S.) DHS chief on cyber response: ‘Not a fair fight’
https://www.eenews.net/stories/1060095977

(Global) This Is What Happened When Security Researchers Placed A CNI-Based Honeypot On The Dark Web
PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

ISIS

Pulling Back the Curtain: An Inside Look at the Islamic State's Media Organization
Daniel Milton – Combating Terrorism Center at West Point: August 2018

This report examines how ISIS managed its media network, focusing on internal documents that discuss the organization in detail.

The ISIS phenomenon: South Asia and beyond
Kabir Taneja – Observer Research Foundation: August 2018

With ISIS losing territory in Iraq and Syria, what organizational form will the group take next? The author examines the group’s influence in India and South Asia by looking at specific individuals targeted for recruitment. The report also provides a detailed look at ISIS’ conception and operational structure as well as the evolving nature of terrorism and the factors that continue to strengthen and propagate jihadist ideologies.

For more on this theme:
In efforts to block ISIS propaganda, a stubborn cyber war

Islamic State ‘Not Growing’ in Afghanistan, Nicholson Says

Islamic State blasts back in the Philippines

Islamic State seeks alternative sources of finance: Russia

IS’ Strategy in Iraq and Syria
https://www.thecipherbrief.com/column_article/is-strategy-in-iraq-and-syria

Islamic State fighters in Afghanistan ‘in touch with UK cells’

Experts explain what the world can expect next after Islamic State loses territory and relevance

ISIS Never Went Away in Iraq
TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

Al Qaeda trying to regain primacy as Islamic State loses ground: NATO
Reuters: 4 September 2018

The Islamic State’s fiefdoms in Syria and Iraq have been largely dismantled in recent years. According to a senior NATO official, al-Qaida is trying to take advantage of this disarray and regain its status as the most-feared terrorist organization.

DGCA rejects Hezbollah arms report
Joseph Haboush – The Daily Star: 5 September 2018

Lebanon’s Directorate-General of Civil Aviation denied a Fox News report that the Iranian airline Fars Air Qeshm had smuggled weapons to Rafic Hariri International Airport in Beirut.

For more on this theme:

Shabaab persecutes Kenyan fighters for spying, backing Islamic State

UN envoy: Libya lurching from emergencies as extremists grow
https://www.whig.com/article/20180905/AP/309059779#

US designates al Qaeda’s branch in Mali as terror organization

AQAP claims Saudi spy network targeted its leaders

Turkey designates Syria’s Tahrir al-Sham as terrorist group

The Rohingyas: a new terrorist threat?
https://www.lowyinstitute.org/the-interpreter/rohingyas-new-terrorist-threat

Resurgence of Boko Haram attacks
https://punchng.com/resurgence-of-boko-haram-attacks/

America’s Overblown Fear of Terrorism
https://nationalinterest.org/feature/americas-overblown-fear-terrorism-30162

The Demographics of Southeast Asian Jihadism
RADICALIZATION AND MESSAGING

Cybercrimes challenge to security system; terrorists using ‘dark internet’ for recruiting operatives: Rajnath Singh
Zee News: 7 September 2018
India’s Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh opined that terrorists are using the dark web for recruitment purposes.

Deradicalisation Programmes in Spanish Prisons: A Flawed Paradigm?
James Khalil – Royal United Services Institute: 3 September 2018
According to media reports, Spain’s efforts to deradicalize prison inmates is not producing any positive results.
https://rusi.org/commentary/deradicalisation-programmes-spanish-prisons-flawed-paradigm

For more on this theme:
Facebook’s definition of terrorism ‘overly broad’, warns UN
Helping Indonesian maids guard against radicalisation
To bring radicalisation under anti-terror law, MHA mulls various options
When science challenges terrorism
The cafe helping to de-radicalise former terrorists
No evidence of radicalisation at Rohingya camps in Bangladesh, says UN official
Federal funding for Toronto Police to expand counter radicalization to violence initiative
Kenya, civil society launch platform to curb violent extremism
http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2018-09/05/c_137447235.htm
University of Indonesia addresses radicalism on campus
FOREIGN FIGHTERS

**Foreign IS fighters face justice in Baghdad criminal court**

*Marta Bellingreri – Al-Monitor: 2 September 2018*

Criminal courts in Baghdad, Iraq, have taken on the burden of trying foreign individuals reportedly associated with ISIS. The speed with which the trials occur and the hundreds of executions are controversial, but the court marches on.


*For more on this theme:*

**Returning British jihadists could face ten years in prison**

https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2018/09/06/returning-british-jihadists-could-face-ten-years-prison/

**For Daesh Genocide Survivors The Worst Fear Becomes Reality Yet Again**


COUNTERTERRORISM STRATEGIES

**Indonesia And The Fight Against Terrorism**

*Kingsley Opurum – Leadership: 6 September 2018*

Indonesia has the largest population of Muslims in the world, and while it has had its share of terrorist attacks, it has never reached the scale of attacks in the Middle East. The country has been held as a model for its counterterrorism and democracy-building techniques.

https://leadership.ng/2018/09/06/indonesia-and-the-fight-against-terrorism/

*For more on this theme:*

**Combating Terrorism Online: Possible Actors and Their Roles**


**Lessons From ISIS: Using the Internet for Counter-Terrorism**


**EU to crack down on online terrorism and cyber threats**

https://www.thenational.ae/world/europe/eu-to-crack-down-on-online-terrorism-and-cyber-threats-1.766935
CONSEQUENCE MANAGEMENT

WATER SECURITY

**Water Security in a New Age of Nationalism**
*Giulio Boccaletti – New Security Beat: 14 August 2018*

In this new age of nationalism, one of the tests for leaders will be how to deal with the issue of water security.


**IUCN Calls for Expanding Women’s Role in Water Governance**
*Delia Paul – International Institute for Sustainable Development: 6 September 2018*

A new report from the International Union for Conservation of Nature examines the role of women in water governance. The report argues that women’s roles should be expanded in the realm of global water security.


Full Report:

**Women as Change-makers in the Governance of Shared Waters**

For more on this theme:

**Corruption and Rural Water Security in Cambodia**

**Indonesian Food and Water Security: Ongoing Inaction Could Lead to a Future Crisis**

**Egypt joins with EU to protect water security**

**Coordinated effort urged for Sri Lanka’s future water security**

**Mekong water security sets off alarm bells in the region**

**South Africa Needs R33 Billion For Water Security Plan**
https://www.iafrica.com/south-africa-needs-r33-billion-for-water-security-plan/

**ASEAN banks need to better manage climate risk to ensure region’s food and water security**
https://www.webwire.com/ViewPressRel.asp?ald=228353

**Army Reserve Hosts Annual Workshop for Energy and Water Professionals**