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COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

No relapse allowed for Guatemala’s anti-corruption wins
Editorial Board – The Christian Science Monitor: 31 August 2017
After a long history of corruption, Guatemala is making sure it doesn’t slide back into old habits. Countries around the region and around the world can look to Guatemala as a success story in the battle against endemic corruption.

Biggest driver of inequality is corruption – millennials
Aika Rey – Rappler: 30 August 2017
Millennials believe government accountability and transparency are needed to fix the rampant corruption that drives inequality, according to an international survey.

For more on this theme:

Human rights frustrating fight against corruption?
https://guardian.ng/opinion/human-rights-frustrating-fight-against-corruption/

China’s ‘Super’ Anti-Corruption Agency Set to Repeat Past Abuses

A Scion of Mexico Fights Corruption, and Becomes a Target

To Wipe Out Corruption, Look to Philadelphia
http://www.governing.com/topics/politics/gov-philadelphia-ethics-corruptions.html

Guatemala top court sides with U.N. graft unit in fight with president

Brazil’s Petrobras Not A Victim Of Corruption, But A Participant

Corruption Is Still a Problem 10 Months After India’s Cash Ban
DRUG TRAFFICKING

Pot Was Flying Off the Shelves in Uruguay. Then U.S. Banks Weighed In.

Uruguay was the first country to decriminalize marijuana and legalize its sale for recreational use. But due to certain American laws, banks are threatening to shut down pharmacies that sell marijuana. This could be problematic as other countries look to legalize weed.

Indonesia is talking tough on drugs, and Australians should listen
Olivia Shen – The Interpreter: 1 September 2017

Indonesian President Joko Widodo has taken a strong anti-drug stance, inviting comparisons to Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte. The bark appears worse than the bite, but countries such as Australia cannot ignore the message that foreign drug dealers will be dealt with harshly. More than 1 million Australians visit Indonesia each year.
https://www.lowyinstitute.org/the-interpreter/indonesia-s-talking-tough-drugs-and-australians-should-be-listening

For more on this theme:
Fact check: Will President Trump’s border wall stop drug smuggling?

The long anti-drug battle in the Philippines
http://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/the-long-anti-drug-battle-the-philippines-1455397

What Does Departure of Top US Anti-Drug Diplomat Mean for LatAm Policy?

Sri Lanka calls for global unity to eradicate drug menace
http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-08/29/c_136565997.htm

Scientists Are Creating A Combination Vaccine To Fight The Opioid Epidemic

Fatal fentanyl overdoses rise as Australians turn to more potent painkillers

Drug policy reform: Decriminalization, harm reduction, treatment
http://www.manilatimes.net/drug-policy-reform-decriminalization-harm-reduction-treatment/347770/

Tunnels become human smuggling pathways across border while drug transfers go airborne
TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

SMART patrolling system to be tested in Pakistan
The Express Tribune: 31 August 2017
Pakistan will be using Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tools (SMART) to protect wildlife from poachers.

How Habitat Loss is Causing Human Wildlife Conflict Around the World
Arianna Pittman – One Green Planet: 31 August 2017
The loss of animal habitats, coupled with wildlife trafficking, threaten humans and animals alike. Population growth will only make the problem worse.

For more on this theme:

Illegal logging ruining watersheds

South African Veterinarian Works to Save Wildlife from Poaching
http://pulitzercenter.org/reporting/south-african-veterinarian-works-save-wildlife-poaching

To catch a (wildlife) criminal

Activists climb ancient trees to stop Polish logging

EU considers future of illegal logging and deforestation policy
http://www.ihb.de/wood/news/EU_illegalLogging_deforestation_FLEGT_53760.html

Kenya to increase number of wildlife crime prosecutors to win the battle against poaching

Making it easier and safer for informants to turn in wildlife criminals
https://ensia.com/features/wildlife-whistleblower/

The fish in your aquarium may have been stolen from Hawaii’s coral reefs
http://theweek.com/articles/711235/fish-aquarium-may-have-been-stolen-from-hawaiis-coral-reefs
ORGANIZED CRIME

Organised crime threatening the development of Southeast Asia
Jeremy Douglas – East Asia Forum: 25 August 2017

Transnational organized crime groups are capitalizing on the growth of Southeast Asian economies to fuel illicit operations. According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the estimated annual value of the regional market is $100 billion.


For more on this theme:

Law Enforcement Professionals at Marshall Center Strategize Ways to Counter Organized Crime
https://www.army.mil/article/193025/law_enforcement_professionals_at_marshall_center_strategize_ways_to_counter_organized_crime

Organised crime including money laundering costs about $28.43 billion every year in Australia

Australian Government: Bitcoin Is Causing Organized Crime to Proliferate

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND IRREGULAR MIGRATION

Facebook faces another moderation scandal over migrant torture videos
Natasha Lomas – TechCrunch: 25 August 2017

Facebook was criticized by the United Nations’ International Organization for Migration over the posting of harrowing footage of migrants being held captive and tortured by smugglers. The video was posted in June and reportedly used to blackmail relatives into paying a ransom.


For more on this theme:

My Choices plans to end large-scale human trafficking in India by 2025

People smugglers could be testing new boating methods to breach Australian borders

The mysterious drop in the number of migrants crossing the Mediterranean
PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

INTERNET GOVERNANCE

**India and EU Discuss International Cyberspace Laws**
*Press Trust of India: 31 August 2017*

During the fourth India-EU cyber dialogue in New Delhi, India and the European Union discussed the importance of a free and open internet and decided to work together toward internet governance.


*For more on this theme:*

(U.S.) Why it's a mistake to celebrate the crackdown on hate websites

(China) Beyond the Great (Fire)Wall of China: The case for ‘Internet sovereignty’

(U.S., Global) Overbroad Safe Harbors — A Threat to a Healthy Internet
https://www.bna.com/overbroad-safe-harbors-a73014463893/

INTERNET FREEDOM

**China’s New Wave of Internet Censorship: Name Verification for Online Commenting**
*Charlotte Gao – The Diplomat: 26 August 2017*

In China, you now have to provide your real identity to post an online comment. The country’s highest internet regulator released new rules that govern online postings. The rules target online communities and discussion forums, which will now require name verification for commenters.


*For more on this theme:*

(Cuba) Cuba’s Internet paradox: How controlled and censored Internet risks Cuba’s achievements in education

(Global) How free is the internet? Ooniprobe knows

(Thailand) Thai junta steps up internet censorship drive
https://asia.nikkei.com/Politics-Economy/Policy-Politics/Thai-junta-steps-up-internet-censorship-drive
PRIVACY AND SECURITY

On internet privacy, be very afraid

Cyber security expert Bruce Schneier discusses government and corporate surveillance and what internet users can do to protect their privacy.
https://today.law.harvard.edu/internet-privacy-afraid/

For more on this theme:
(U.S.) Collapse of California bill to protect internet users would be awful
(India) Privacy is now a right in India. Here’s what that means for the tech industry
(U.S.) Privacy and Security Concerns Need Attention as IoT, Machine Learning Take Hold

CYBER STATECRAFT DEVELOPMENT

China’s Global Charm Offensive
Andrea Little Limbago – War on the Rocks: 28 August 2017

China has been working on its image lately, trying to portray itself as a champion of internet stability. The country is pushing its model for complete government control of the internet and using information operations to divert attention from its censorship issues.

For more on this theme:
(India) Digital Evolution in India
(EU) Europe’s Patchwork Approach to Cyber Defense Needs a Complete Overhaul
https://www.cfr.org/blog/europes-patchwork-approach-cyber-defense-needs-complete-overhaul
PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

Building a Secure Smart City Requires a Public-Private Team
Daniel R. Stoller – Bloomberg: 30 August 2017

Smart cities are at risk from cyber threats by their very nature. To counteract these threats, governments and private-sector partners must work together.

https://www.bna.com/building-secure-smart-b73014463897/

For more on this theme:
(U.S.) Joining Forces to Fight Cyber Crime
https://i-hls.com/archives/78292
(Estonia) Estonia considering ‘estcoin’ ICO for e-residents

PROTECTION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Chinese cyber spies broaden attacks in Vietnam, security firm says
Matthew Tostevin – Reuters: 31 August 2017

China is broadening its state-sponsored cyber attacks against Vietnam during a time of high tensions over the South China Sea, according to cyber security firm FireEye. “Where China has often focused on the government before, this shows they are really hitting the full commercial sector potentially in Vietnam and trying to gather a broad base of information there,” said the head of FireEye’s cyber espionage team.

https://www.reuters.com/article/us-vietnam-china-cyber-idUSKCN1BB0I5

For more on this theme:
(Global) Strengthening the global response to intellectual property crime
(China, U.S.) US Launches Investigation into China’s Technology Transfer & IP Practices
(India, Pakistan) Cyber espionage campaign targets India, Pakistan: report
CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING

Huge gap between India’s cyber warfare capability, capacity
IANS: 1 September 2017

The gap between India’s cyber warfare capability and capacity may encourage would-be attackers. India must get this under control to discourage such attacks.


For more on this theme:

(China, Haiti) China could build data center in Haiti as part of $4.7bn large scale reconstruction
https://data-economy.com/china-build-data-center-haiti-part-4-7bn-large-scale-reconstruction/

(U.S.) Los Angeles launches first US city-based cyber lab

(Malawi) Malawi lack capacity to fight cyber security threats, says Army Commander

(Ghana) Lack of skills a challenge to cyber security - Minister

COMBATING TERRORISM AND CYBER CRIME

Putting the cyber in crime
Javvad Malik – CSO: 25 August 2017

Criminals are drawn to cyber crime because of the low risk, ease and high payoffs.


For more on this theme:

(U.K.) Cyber crime reaching epidemic proportions as fraud becomes most common crime in UK
http://www.express.co.uk/finance/personalfinance/846157/Cyber-crime-epidemic-fraud-UK

(Israel) Israel Police Commissioner declares launch of cyber-crime unit to combat pedophilia

(Zimbabwe) Zimbabwe finalises new cybercrime bill
INFORMATION SHARING

How the right cyber intelligence can give agencies the upper hand
Jason Miller – Federal News Radio: 31 August 2017

 Threat-intelligence sharing can help agencies counter attacks by giving them basic information about the attackers upfront, according to cyber security firm FireEye.


For more on this theme:
(U.S.) Senate Intel Bill Bars Creation of U.S.-Russia Cyber Working Group
(U.S.) AHA Urges Reduced Data Sharing Barriers in HIPAA Regulations
(Global) Social Media Giants Just Created the Global Internet Forum to Counter Terrorism

CYBER PROTECTION OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Critical infrastructure not ready for DDoS attacks: FOI data report
SC Media: 29 August 2017

 Organizations could be ignoring 90 percent of the distributed denial-of-service (DDoS) attacks on their networks by not mitigating abbreviated DDoS attacks.


For more on this theme:
(U.S., Global) The truth about a cyber Pearl Harbor
(U.S., Global) Deterrence Can Protect Our Critical Infrastructure from Cyberattack
https://chargedaffairs.org/deterrence-can-protect-critical-infrastructure-cyberattack/
(U.S.) Trump's cybersecurity advisers quit, warning of 'insufficient attention'
PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

ISIS

ISIS Global: Where Next For The Jihadi Group As Its Caliphate Crumbles?
Jack Moore and Daniele Palumbo – Newsweek: 31 August 2017
The authors take an in-depth look at where ISIS will dig in after losing Mosul, Iraq, and being pushed out of Raqqa, Syria.

Malaysia’s Reckoning With the Islamic State
Cristina Maza – The Diplomat: 6 September 2017
As ISIS loses its last bits of territory in Syria and Iraq, this article asks whether Malaysia is ready for the terror group’s push into Southeast Asia.

For more on this theme:

Officials Eye Euphrates River Valley as Last Stand for ISIS

What is left of ISIL’s ‘caliphate’?

ISIS’ Terrorist Revolution: Sophisticated Drone Operations Pose Grave Threat to American Forces
http://nationalinterest.org/blog/the-buzz/isis-terrorist-revolution-sophisticated-drone-operations-22125

Inside The Tunnels ISIS Uses To Launch Sneak Attacks In Raqqa
http://taskandpurpose.com/isis-tunnels-raqqa-syria-video/

ISIS in Russia: Extremists Claim Two Knife Attacks In One Month

Countering the ISIS prison appeal in Egypt

Lebanon Frees Hundreds of ISIS Fighters in Exchange for Soldiers’ Bodies

Islamic State Becoming a Growing Presence in Southeast Asia
TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

The enemy that attacked the US on 11/9 is rapidly regaining its strength
Matt Purple – Business Insider: 25 August 2017

Shrewder and more prepared then ISIS, al-Qaeda stands to gain from ISIS’ rapid demise. The terror group has rebuilt as the West focused on ISIS.

Is Russia Really Arming the Taliban?
Krishnadev Calamur – The Atlantic: 25 August 2017

Digging into accusations that Russia has been providing weapons to the Taliban, this article explores the reasons Russia would or would not do such a thing.

For more on this theme:
Jihadist terrorism in Italy: Exhortations and prophecies

The Lament Of The Boko Haram ‘Brides’

Confessions of a Boko Haram Defector

Countering Boko Haram propaganda
http://thenationonlineng.net/countering-boko-haram-propaganda/

Kashmiri terrorist Zakir Musa will “liberate” India from “cow-worshipping” Modi

The problem is al-Qaeda not ISIS

ISIS’ Blueprint
https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/2017-08-25/isis-blueprint

Part I: The Case for Continued U.S. Involvement in Afghanistan
https://lawfareblog.com/part-i-case-continued-us-involvement-afghanistan

Yemen, Al-Qaeda’s Laboratory For “Invisible” Relaunch
https://www.worldcrunch.com/world-affairs/yemen-al-qaeda39s-laboratory-for-invisible-relaunch

As the caliphate crumbles, Taliban steals ISIS’ tactics to target women
RADICALIZATION AND MESSAGING

**Before They Were ISIS**
*Mairi Mackay – OZY: 28 August 2017*

To better understand the draw ISIS has over some, the magazine takes an in-depth look into the lives of people before they joined the terrorist group and those they left behind.

http://www.ozy.com/true-story/before-they-were-isis/80439

**Youth radicalization is on the rise. Here’s what we know about why.**
*Julie M. Norman and Drew Mikhael – The Washington Post: 28 August 2017*

After researching youth radicalization and recruitment, the authors found that it is not the ideology itself that draws someone in, but rather the ability to channel perceived complaints. This finding opens the door to developing new ways of countering radicalization.


*For more on this theme:*

**Making a Monster: How I Became a Bride of ISIS**

**Somalia: Al-Shabaab defectors being rehabilitated to re-enter Society**

**Radicalization Of The Female Worker – Analysis**

**Prevent online radicalization**
http://opinion.inquirer.net/106723/prevent-online-radicalization

**Kofi Annan report warns of Rakhine radicalization amid deadly Rohingya attacks**

**The Threat Of Radicalization In Europe, Whom To Blame – OpEd**

**The Growing Threat of Radicalization**
https://hitechchronicle.com/2017/08/the-growing-threat-of-radicalization/

**Europe’s Radicalization Problem**
https://me-confidential.com/16884-europes-radicalization-problem.html
COUNTERTERRORISM STRATEGIES

Spain to push EU leaders for better counter-terrorism coordination
Sarah White and Rodrigo De Miguel – Reuters: 25 August 2017

After suffering an attack in Barcelona, Spain pushes to increase cross-border counterterrorism cooperation within the European Union.

https://www.reuters.com/article/us-spain-security/spain-to-push-eu-leaders-for-better-counter-terrorism-coordination-idUSKCN1B51FS?il=0

For more on this theme:

How to stop the terrorist driving into a crowd?

Is the War Model of Counterterrorism a Failure? A Response to Micah Zenko
https://www.lawfareblog.com/war-model-counterterrorism-failure-response-micah-zenko

Pakistan has made sacrifices to counter terrorism: China

EU, India agree to strengthen counter-terrorism
https://www.outlookindia.com/newsscroll/eu-india-agree-to-strengthen-counterterrorism/1135678

Counterterrorism, Italy-style: Fewer barricades, more pretty trees

New Australia Military Terror Aid For the Philippines?
CONSEQUENCE MANAGEMENT

WATER SCARCITY

Industry Voices — Gold: The IoT is providing water security to a thirsty planet
Jack Gold – Fierce Wireless: 31 August 2017

The author predicts that within the next five years, advances in technology and the internet of things (IoT) will help smart cities around the world better manage water resources to counteract water insecurity.


Climate Variability, Water, and Security in El Salvador
Herman Rosa and Chelsea Spangler – Wilson Center: 29 August 2017

Water-related changes have affected the security of El Salvador more than other issues. Water remains key to the country’s stability and security.

https://www.newsecuritybeat.org/2017/08/climate-variability-water-security-el-salvador/

WB Warns of Ramifications of Water Scarcity on Stability of MENA Region
The North Africa Post: 31 August 2017

An estimated $21 billion is lost annually in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region due to inadequate water supply and sanitation, according to a new report from the World Bank.


Full report:

Beyond Scarcity: Water Security in the Middle East and North Africa
https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/27659

For more on this theme:

Water security key to sustainable development

Jordan faces likelihood of much more frequent long and severe droughts
https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2017/08/170830202128.htm

New process to help desalinate water faster, cheaper