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COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

Corrupt Oil Trader Turns On Colleagues in Massive Africa Bribe Case
Christian Berthelsen, Javier Blas and Bob Van Voris – Bloomberg: 14 September 2021
A London trader funneled millions of dollars to African officials. When he was caught, he talked.

Is Dominican Republic Making Gains in Anti-Corruption Fight?
Juliana Manjarrés – InSight Crime: 13 September 2021
The dismantling of a drug-trafficking and money-laundering network implicating government officials in the Dominican Republic has presented a serious challenge to President Luis Abinader’s anti-corruption drive.

For more on this theme:
Corporate corruption, fraud and bribery have significant impacts to the enterprise
https://www.securitymagazine.com/articles/96086-corporate-corruption-fraud-and-bribery-have-significant-impacts-to-the-enterprise

Educating young key to combatting corruption in sport: Ex-EU Justice Commissioner

Corruption trackers flag increased global money laundering risks
https://www.swissinfo.ch/eng/corruption-trackers-flag-increased-global-money-laundering-risks/46943650

Palestinian NGOs begin campaign against political corruption

China Development Bank vice-president detained in corruption probe

Zambia's new leader vows 'zero tolerance' on corruption

Out in the open: How public beneficial ownership registers advance anti-corruption

Madagascar’s vanilla industry has become a magnet for corruption, money laundering and criminality

India most aware when it comes to identifying bribery and corruption: Kroll survey
DRUG TRAFFICKING

Spanish police arrest former Venezuelan spy boss

*Deutsche Welle*: 10 September 2021

Hugo Carvajal, the former intelligence chief, had been hiding in Madrid while trying to avoid extradition to the United States, police said.


South Africa Raises Profile as Cocaine Trafficking Hub

*Alessandro Ford – InSight Crime*: 14 September 2021

South Africa has made a rapid succession of large cocaine seizures in recent months, illuminating how the country and region now play a significant role as transit points for Latin American cocaine.


For more on this theme:

**Saudi-bound Hezbollah Narcotics Haul Seized In Major Drugs Bust**


**Panama Unveils Extent of Official Participation in Drug Trafficking**


**Modifying Planes to Carry Drugs - Another Criminal Speciality in Colombia**


**Monos Leader Continues to Call the Shots from Behind Bars**


**Minerals, drugs and China: How the Taliban might finance their new Afghan government**


**Meth ‘Super Labs’ Said to Thrive in Myanmar Coup Chaos, Spilling Drugs Across Mekong**


**Antwerp and Rotterdam are new epicentre of European cocaine trade**


**The Drug Gangs Terrorising England’s Steel City**


**Is Meth addiction taking over Dhaka?**

TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

The young Vietnamese helping tackle the illegal wildlife trade
Sen Nguyen – Al Jazeera: 10 September 2021

Trang Nguyen is a rarity in Vietnam, where civil society is viewed with skepticism and most young people want more lucrative careers.


Illegal logging reaches Amazon’s untouched core, ‘terrifying’ research shows
Juliana Ennes – Mongabay: 15 September 2021

Satellite imagery shows that logging is spreading from peripheral areas of the Amazon toward the rainforest’s core, according to groundbreaking research.


For more on this theme:
The Human Rights Cost of IUU Fishing in Ghana

Fish and Ships: Chinese Fishing and Europe’s Indo-Pacific Strategy

As Marijuana Profits Dry Up, Mexico Crime Groups Turn to Alcohol and Logging
https://insightcrime.org/news/mexico-crime-groups-marijuana-profits-dry-up/

One-third of world’s trees now in danger of extinction
https://euobserver.com/climate/152801

A Roaring Trade: Wildlife Trafficking in Colombia’s Amazon
https://insightcrime.org/investigations/roaring-trade-wildlife-trafficking-colombia-amazon/

‘Tape their beaks’: Wildlife trafficking case offers glimpse into clandestine animal trade from Mexico

Singapore opens wildlife forensics centre to combat animal trafficking

Eastern Africa’s Prosecutors meet in Tanzania to strengthen the fight against wildlife crime

This Is How Critically Endangered Orangutans Are Trafficked, According to a Former Illegal Trader
https://www.vice.com/en/article/k78v7v>this-is-how-critically-endangered-orangutans-are-trafficked-according-to-a-former-illegal-trader

Report: To End Illegal Wildlife Trafficking, Follow The Money
HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND IRREGULAR MIGRATION

FIRST PERSON: Human trafficking, migrant smuggling, still significant threats in Asia
United Nations News: 12 September 2021

Human trafficking and the smuggling of migrants are going to remain significant threats to human security, according to a trafficking and migrant expert working in the Middle East and Asia region for the U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime.


FRONTEX: Illegal Migration Increased by Over 90% in the Mediterranean, Balkan & Western African Route
Schengen Visa Info: 15 September 2021

More than 103,630 people entered the European countries illegally since the beginning of the year, marking a 64% increase in illegal border-crossing cases compared with the first months of 2020, according to FRONTEX, the European Union Border and Coast Guard Agency.


For more on this theme:

UK braces for human trafficking surge from Afghanistan

Grappling with human trafficking, forced labour

A Milestone in the Economic Empowerment of Human Trafficking Survivors

Human trafficking: Poor economy fueling exodus of Nigerians

How victims of human trafficking are repatriated: Five things to know
https://www.newtimes.co.rw/news/how-victims-human-trafficking-are-repatriated-five-things-know

Odisha: Traffickers preyed on those hit by jobloss

NHRC, UN Migration Mission conclude training on combating human trafficking

Greek leader vows crackdown against migrant traffickers
https://apnews.com/article/europe-middle-east-greece-turkey-migration-22ef66d0036fd6d74b27bd0f215f868
INTERNET GOVERNANCE

UN urges moratorium on use of AI that imperils human rights
The United Nations human rights chief is calling for a moratorium on the use of artificial intelligence technology that poses a serious risk to human rights, including face-scanning systems that track people in public spaces.
https://apnews.com/article/technology-business-laws-united-nations-artificial-intelligence-efafdf47af1b376e198842e69d

For more on this theme:
(Global) Internet Governance and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Part 9: Articles 26-30

(China) China aims for ‘civilised’ internet with focus on ‘socialist values’ – Xinhua
https://www.reuters.com/world/china/china-aims-civilised-internet-with-focus-socialist-values-xinhua-2021-09-14/

(Africa) Afrinic’s IP Address Crisis Raises Red Flags for Entire African Internet’s Sustainability

INTERNET FREEDOM

Why you should be more concerned about internet shutdowns
Tate Ryan-Mosleye – MIT Technology Review: 9 September 2021
Governments are turning off the internet to silence dissenters at an “exponential” rate and threatening civil society, the chief operating officer of Google’s Jigsaw project says.

For more on this theme:
(Russia) More Preelection Censorship: Internet Regulator Shuts Down Website Focused On Putin’s Future
https://www.rferl.org/a/31459794.html

(Hong Kong) The Downfall of Hong Kong’s Privacy Law

(Turkey) Turkish government increases pressure on social media
EU chief announces cybersecurity law for connected devices
Luca Bertuzzi – EURACTIV.com: 16 September 2021
European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen announced the proposal of a Cyber Resilience Act aimed at setting common cybersecurity standards for connected devices.

For more on this theme:
(Global) How to apply Sun Tzu’s ‘The Art of War’ to cybersecurity
https://www.securitymagazine.com/articles/96072-how-to-apply-sun-tzus-the-art-of-war-to-cybersecurity

(Africa) UN wants Nigeria, others to deepen Internet safety

(Global) We Cannot Afford to Wait to Bolster Maritime Cybersecurity

CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING
Would a joint environment with the private sector improve federal cybersecurity?
Amelia Brust — Federal News Network: 31 August 2021
If federal agencies want to boost cybersecurity, it will take a concept of operations. That’s why the U.S. Cyberspace Solarium Commission recommended a joint collaborative environment in March 2020.

For more on this theme:
(Bangladesh) Cyber-Safe and Cyber-Positive Teens in Bangladesh

(Asia-Pacific) Experts: Cyber-capacity building in APAC should involve growing talent pool, regional cooperation
https://manilastandard.net/mobile/article/364986
CYBERCRIME

Cybercrime A Barrier To Africa’s Thriving Digital Economy
New Zimbabwe: 13 September 2021

Cybercrime is one of the top risk factors likely to jeopardize Africa’s economy, especially as the continent transitions to e-commerce under the Africa Continental Free Trade Area.

https://www.newzimbabwe.com/202696-2/

For more on this theme:

(Global) 50% Of Companies Have Experienced Cybercrime at the Hands of the Same Attacker
https://thefintechtimes.com/50-of-companies-have-experienced-cybercrime-at-the-hands-of-the-same-attacker/

(Global) Financial Cybercrime: Why Cryptocurrency is the Perfect ‘Getaway Car’
https://threatpost.com/financial-cybercrime-cryptocurrency/169327/

(India) Smaller cities were targeted more by cyber-criminals says NCRB report

CYBERATTACKS, THREATS AND VULNERABILITIES

UN Breach Highlights Escalation of Cyber Threats
Sam Curry – Security Boulevard: 9 September 2021

Hackers have been inside the United Nations network for months. According to a report, stolen credentials of a U.N. employee were sold on the dark web for as little as $1,000. The report claims that Russian-speaking cybercriminals sold access to the U.N. systems for months — from April through August 2021.


For more on this theme:

(Indonesia) Mustang Panda Compromises Indonesian Intelligence Agency

(Australia) ‘New battleground’: Cyber attackers targeting Australia’s health system

(Russia) Russia’s Yandex says it repelled biggest DDoS attack in history
PROTECTION OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Outlining Risks to the World’s Vital Cyber-Physical Systems
Richard Searle – Dark Reading: 14 September 2021

The key to protecting these systems is not only to ensure the control environment is secure and protected but also to deploy emerging technologies such as confidential computing.


For more on this theme:

(Australia) ‘Significant threat’: cyber attacks increasingly targeting Australia’s critical infrastructure

(U.S.) State of Cybersecurity: We Can Do More to Protect Our Supply Chain and Critical Infrastructure

(U.S.) State of Transportation Security: Preparing for Physical, Cyber, and Drone Threats
PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

ISIS AND FOREIGN FIGHTERS

French Forces Kill an ISIS Leader in Sahara, Macron Says
*The New York Times*: 15 September 2021

In 2017, Adnan Abu Walid al-Sahraoui, leader of the Islamic State in the Greater Sahara, claimed responsibility for an attack that killed four U.S. soldiers in Niger. French President Emmanuel Macron also blamed the group for killing French charity workers. The French government announced last week that its forces had killed al-Sahraoui in a drone strike.


State of ISIS: Long-Term Challenges as Terror Group Makes Its Next Moves

ISIS affiliates in Africa have expanded following territorial gains in Nigeria, Mozambique, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Sahel.


For more on this theme:

The Islamic State’s New Emirates in the Heart of Africa

Sweden Arrests Two Women Linked to IS
https://www.voanews.com/extremism-watch/sweden-arrests-two-women-linked

Islamic State Under-Reporting in Central Syria: Misdirection, Misinformation, or Miscommunication?
https://www.hstoday.us/subject-matter-areas/counterterrorism/islamic-state-under-reporting-in-central-syria-misdirection-misinformation-or-miscommunication/

Revealed: life inside ‘global villages’ of Islamic State jihadis in Afghanistan

Woman Who Joined ISIS as Teen Asks to Return to U.K., Even if She Faces Terrorism Charges

4 Killed in ISIS Attack Near Iraq’s Mosul
https://english.aawsat.com/home/article/3184616/4-killed-isis-attack-near-iraq%E2%80%99s-mosul

UN appoints new head of investigative body for ISIS war crimes
TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

Al-Qaida chief appears in video marking 9/11 anniversary
The Associated Press: 12 September 2021

Al-Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahri appeared in a new video marking the 20th anniversary of the September 11 attacks, months after rumors spread that he was dead.

https://apnews.com/article/middle-east-syria-afghanistan-taliban-islamic-state-group-79fc96bd028a31718e3c69fc6aba2a96

Friction among Taliban pragmatists, hard-liners intensifies

Friction between pragmatists and ideologues in the Taliban leadership has intensified since the group formed a hard-line cabinet that is more in line with their harsh rule in the 1990s than their recent promises of inclusiveness, two Afghans familiar with the power struggle said.

https://apnews.com/article/middle-east-afghanistan-kabul-taliban-abdul-ghani-baradar-56455c9c2e1453e5bf57d697d968834

For more on this theme:
Afghanistan: The pledge binding al-Qaeda to the Taliban

Afghans Face Hunger Crisis, Other Problems under Taliban

Opinion: The terrorism threat is entering a new, more dangerous phase

Al Qaeda Versus ISIS
https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/afghanistan/2021-09-14/al-qaeda-versus-isis

State of Terrorism: Predicting the Next Wave of Lone Wolf Attacks
https://www.hstoday.us/911/state-of-lone-wolf-terrorism-predicting-the-next-wave/

Notorious Boko Haram, Islamic State Leader, Al-Barnawi Killed In Borno

UK Spy Chief Warns Taliban Takeover Could Fuel Terror Plots

‘Al-Qaida, Islamic State could gain strength’: UN envoy says Afghan economic crisis looms

Indonesia arrests key leader in Al Qaeda-linked group
RADICALIZATION

State of Propaganda: The Terrorist as Influencer, Producer, and Cross-Ideology Tutor
Bridget Johnson – Homeland Security Today: 11 September 2021

The ecosystem of online terror propaganda, incitement, recruitment and training invites extremists of different ideologies to feed off a massive trove of resources and remotely learn from one another.


For more on this theme:

Flawed counter-extremism projects ‘may create new terrorists’

A Visit to Northeast Syria Shows the Urgency for Governments to Repatriate Their Citizens, Many of Them Children, to Thwart ISIS

What can the motivations of terrorists teach us about Afghanistan?

Afkar-e-Taza ThinkFest: ‘Radicalisation has more to do with social inequality than ideology’

Vic bill introduced to counter extremism

Extremists use internet to terrify and radicalise, warns Cressida Dick

How can we prevent acts of violence such as the mass shooting in Plymouth?
https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/countering-radical-right/how-can-we-prevent-acts-violence-such-mass-shooting-plymouth/

Myanmar: Southeast Asia’s Next Frontline of Jihadism?

State of Radicalization: Behavioral Factors in the Rise of the Lone Actor Terrorist

State of Prevention: As the Threat Evolves, So Must Our Strategies to Stop Mobilization to Violence
IRREGULAR WARFARE: PROXY FORCES AND PRIVATE MILITARY GROUPS

Israel Says Iran Is Training Middle East Militias to Fly Drones
Seth J. Frantzman – The National Interest: 13 September 2021

Iranian drone threats and the use of Iranian drones by groups in Iraq, Syria, Lebanon and Yemen have become a feature of the Middle East.
https://nationalinterest.org/feature/israel-says-iran-training-middle-east-militias-fly-drones-193644

For more on this theme:
Will pro-Iranian militias in Iraq work more with Palestinians?
France criticises deal bringing Russian mercenaries into Mali
https://www.reuters.com/world/france-criticises-deal-bringing-russian-mercenaries-into-mali-2021-09-14/

IRREGULAR WARFARE: CYBER

China responsible for two thirds of state-sponsored cyber attacks
Anthony Galloway – The Sydney Morning Herald: 16 September 2021

China is responsible for more than two-thirds of state-sponsored cyberattacks around the world, according to new research, as foreign governments are increasingly blending their capabilities with criminal networks to hide their identities.

For more on this theme:
General promises US ‘surge’ against foreign cyberattacks
https://nsjonline.com/article/2021/09/general-promises-us-surge-against-foreign-cyberattacks/
US Accuses Russia of Stonewalling on Cybercrime
https://www.voanews.com/a/6227401.html
Russia is fully capable of shutting down cybercrime
Singapore Proposes Law Combating Foreign Interference Online
CrowdStrike reveals a surge in adversary activity in their annual threat hunting report