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COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

Former Malaysian PM Najib slapped with 25 more corruption charges
Selvanaban Mariappan – CNN: 20 September 2018

Former Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak has been hit with 25 new corruption charges linked to the transfer of $681 million into his account from the country’s strategic investment fund, 1Malaysia Development Berhad. He was charged with four counts of abuse of power and 21 counts of money laundering.

To Tackle Corruption, Start With Inequality
Li Hui – Sixth Tone: 20 September 2018

Actual efficacy aside, the corruption battles in China have an overwhelming negative perception among the public. In past surveys, twice as many people polled said the campaigns were “totally ineffective” as those claiming they were “extremely effective.” To turn public opinion, it might be better to focus more on underlying economic problems than high-profile arrests and public trials.

For more on this theme:

Transparency international exporting corruption report
http://www.voxy.co.nz/business/5/320919

Corruption caused the collapse of buildings in 2017 Mexico City earthquake, a new report finds

Can Blockchain aid in the fight against corruption?

‘£6,500 buys a penalty’- how corruption eats at the heart of Algerian football
https://www.bbc.com/sport/football/45549805

The Corrupt Shall Inherit Ukraine

Report exposes Maldives ‘orgy of corruption’ ahead of election

Equatorial Guinea’s Teodorin Obiang Faces Trouble Abroad for Corruption, Again
https://www.cfr.org/blog/equatorial-guineas-teodorin-obiang-faces-trouble-abroad-corruption-again

Corruption Denies Millions Access to Quality Education in Nigeria
https://www.cfr.org/blog/corruption-denies-millions-access-quality-education-nigeria
DRUG TRAFFICKING

Land for Cocaine Production Hits Record in Colombia, U.N. Says

Colombia’s acreage of coca, the raw material for cocaine, expanded 17 percent to hit a new record last year, the United Nations said, as the government mulls whether to restart aerial fumigation with the herbicide glyphosate.


Report summary:

Colombia – Survey of territories affected by illicit crops 2017 – Summary and fact sheet

India slams UN inaction on drug trade that puts $1 bn in Taliban coffers
IANS – The Economic Times: 18 September 2018

India has called for crippling the illicit drug trade, which provides financial sustenance to terror outfits like the Taliban. It said these groups benefit significantly from criminal networks operating drug cartels and stealing Afghanistan’s natural resources.


For more on this theme:

Former Nigerian leader Obasanjo urges West African governments to decriminalize drugs

Fentanyl: The Opioid Epidemic That’s Killing America | Opinion
https://www.newsweek.com/fentanyl-opioid-epidemic-thats-killing-america-opinion-1115758

Trump Identifies 22 “Major Drug Producing” Countries
https://www.talkingdrugs.org/trump-identifies-22-major-drug-producing-countries

‘My safe little town isn’t safe any more’: the toll of the county lines drug trade

Colombia: Drug smuggling at Colombian ports

Over four decades, an ‘inexorable’ epidemic of drug overdoses reveals its inner secrets

The Crucial Link Between Drug Policy and HIV Rates
TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

Reducing demand
TRAFFIC: 10 September 2018

A new study exploring ways to change consumer demand for illegal wildlife products was launched by the watchdog group TRAFFIC. Previous efforts focused only on the supply side of wildlife smuggling. New efforts are looking at ways to end the demand side as well.

DNA Tests Identify Ivory Smuggling Cartels
Steve Baragona – Voice of America: 19 September 2018

Using genetic testing to track illegal ivory could have a major impact in stopping smuggling cartels.

For more on this theme:
Appetite for shark fin soup drives massive shark population decline

Amazon forest guardians fight to prevent catastrophic tipping point
https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/amazon-forest-guardians-fight-to-prevent-catastrophic-tipping-point

Illegal Mining in Costa Rica

Researchers aim to help Colombia communities hit by illegal gold mining

World’s first indigenous REDD+ program suspended due to illegal mining

Illegal mining: We need to reinforce fight

Exclusive: Pakistan’s first ever wildlife policy to curb trafficking of endangered animals through social media

Pacific leaders welcome increased aerial surveillance of illegal fishing
https://matangitonga.to/2018/09/14/pacific-leaders-welcome-fishing-surveillance

Chinese gangs fuel illegal South Africa abalone trade: report
HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND IRREGULAR MIGRATION

Official Development Assistance and SDG Target 8.7: Measuring Aid to Address Forced Labour, Modern Slavery, Human Trafficking and Child Labour

Dr. Kelly A. Gleason and Dr. James Cockayne – United Nations University: September 2018

A Centre for Policy Research report highlights efforts to eradicate forced labor, slavery, human trafficking and child labor. More than $4 billion was pledged between 2000 and 2013 to battle these crimes.

https://delta87.org/

Stop, check and call: How Nepal's women ‘human interceptors’ catch traffickers

Gopal Sharma – Reuters: 12 September 2018

The women of Nepal are standing at the border and making a difference. Acting as “human interceptors,” local women watch the border to stop traffickers from smuggling young women abroad.

https://www.reuters.com/article/us-nepal-trafficking-border/stop-check-and-call-how-nepals-women-hu-

man-interceptors-catch-traffickers-idUSKCN1LT01J

For more on this theme:

Colombia failing to fight child sexual exploitation, officials admit

https://www.reuters.com/article/us-colombia-humantrafficking-youth/colombia-failing-to-fight-child-sex-

ual-exploitation-officials-admit-idUSKCN1LS0I6

People smugglers pose as UNHCR staff in Libya


Nimroz Identified As Key Human Trafficking Route

https://www.tolonews.com/afghanistan/nimroz-identified-key-human-trafficking-route

Morocco: Over 50,000 migrant crossings to Europe foiled

https://www.alaraby.co.uk/english/news/2018/9/7/morocco-over-50-000-migrant-crossings-to-europe-

foiled

First Person: Want to thwart human traffickers? Just add water


How Amazon wants to use serverless apps to end human trafficking

https://www.techrepublic.com/article/how-amazon-wants-to-use-serverless-apps-to-end-human-traffick-

ing/

The Tebu: the little-known community at the heart of Libya’s people smuggling trade


UN agency: Trips across Mediterranean fall, but risks rise

https://apnews.com/cc28ad89969443f8a89c049c52343f82

Nigeria must improve efforts to tackle human trafficking, UN expert warns


pert-warns/
PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

INTERNET GOVERNANCE

Women participation in internet governance key to dev’t
Vanguard: 18 September 2018

The active participation of women in governing the internet is key to the development of any nation, according to Mary Uduma, chairwoman of the Internet Governance Forum. She was speaking at the first Women Internet Governance Forum held in Nigeria.


For more on this theme:

(China) Coordination & sharing: China on fast track for integration into global internet security governance

(U.K., Global) The Internet: To Regulate Or Not To Regulate?

INTERNET FREEDOM

Cyberspace controls set to strengthen under China’s new internet boss
Nectar Gan – South China Morning Post: 20 September 2018

Zhuang Rongwen, China’s new internet regulator, plans to tighten the government’s control over the country’s 800 million internet users. He pledged to double down and improve the online promotion of “Xi Jinping Thought,” the country’s new political doctrine.


For more on this theme:

(Global) Choke points and censorship: Protecting free flow of information on internet

(China) China Aims to Augment ‘50 Cent’ Army, Train Cadres on Publishing Favorable Online Content
https://www.theepochtimes.com/china-aims-to-augment-50-cent-army-train-cadres-on-publishing-favor-able-online-content_2659011.html

(Europe) Crackdown on online terror content not censorship, says EU
PRIVACY AND SECURITY

Quick Heal finds massive threats to Windows OS laptops, desktops
K V Kurmanath – The Hindu: 19 September 2018

Global information technology security firm Quick Heal Technologies said it detected more than 180 million threats to laptops and desktop devices using Windows in India between April and June. “Cyber criminals are at a completely different level today than they were a few years ago. They are using novel technologies to drive increasingly complex attacks and are targeting larger user bases,” the company said.

https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/info-tech/quickheal-finds-massive-breaches-in-windows-os-laptops-desktops/article24985385.ece

For more on this theme:

(U.S.) California readies new security requirements for ‘internet of things’ devices

(Global) ICANN sets plan to reinforce internet DNS security

(Australia) Home Affairs makes changes to encryption Bill without addressing main concerns

CYBER STATECRAFT DEVELOPMENT

Propaganda-spewing Russian trolls act differently online from regular people
Savvas Zannettou and Jeremy Blackburn – The Conversation: 5 September 2018

This article looks at the behavior exhibited by Russian troll accounts on social media during the 2016 presidential election.

https://theconversation.com/propaganda-spewing-russian-trolls-act-differently-online-from-regular-people-100895

For more on this theme:

(Australia) NSW government prepares to unveil cyber security strategy

(U.S.) Senators: Why we need a better cyber Paul Revere

(Europe) Europe’s Digital Agenda – Week Three
https://www.governmentcomputing.com/brexit-eu/comment/europes-digital-agenda-week-three
PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

Why Government And Social Media Platforms Must Cooperate To Fight Misinformation
Kalev Leetaru – Forbes: 9 September 2018

Governments and social media corporations are ill-equipped to deal with misinformation on their own. Only through cooperation can they hope to stop individual and state-sponsored campaigns.


For more on this theme:
(U.S.) LA Looks to Team with AT&T on Smart City Tech

(Chile, U.S.) United States | U.S.-Chile Executive Cyber Consultation

PROTECTION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

There’s a booming job market for corporate insiders willing to share secret info with cyber criminals
Kate Fazzini – CNBC: 20 September 2018

Many big tech companies — Amazon being the latest — are up against heavy bounties for their information. Criminals and state actors alike are seeking insiders to steal and share the intellectual property of the companies they work for.


For more on this theme:
(Europe, Global) Copyright Law Reform in Europe Likely to Strengthen Monopoly of Internet Giants
https://www.newsclick.in/copyright-law-reform-europe-likely-strengthen-monopoly-internet-giants

(U.S.) Defending Forward: The 2018 Cyber Strategy Is Here

(U.S., China) Feeding the Fire Of Genius: Intellectual Property And America's High-Tech Future
CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING

What's Next for the New ASEAN-Singapore Cyber Center?
Prashanth Parameswaran – The Diplomat: 19 September 2018

With cyber attacks mounting, Singapore is expanding its program to deepen the Association of Southeast Asian Nations’ (ASEAN) cyber capabilities and enhance the region’s ability to respond to emerging global cyber threats. Singapore will fund the upcoming ASEAN-Singapore Cybersecurity Centre of Excellence to strengthen ASEAN members’ cyber strategy development, legislation and research capabilities.


For more on this theme:

(U.S.) Declassified Report Describes Confusion Around Military Cyber Responsibilities in 2014

(ASEAN) Southeast Asian cyber security center opens in Thailand

(Europe) How the EU is building a robust and secure digital environment

COMBATING TERRORISM AND CYBER CRIME

There’s a gap between what people expect when they report cybercrime, and what police can deliver
Cassandra Cross – The Conversation: 17 September 2018

According to a recently released report, two-thirds of cyber crime victims were dissatisfied with their case’s outcome through the Australian Cybercrime Online Reporting Network.


For more on this theme:

(India, Global) Govt mulls proposal for Int’l convention on cybercrime co-op

(Europe, Global) New Europol Report Warns Of Cybercrime Threats

(Germany, Global) Coming together against cybercrime
INFORMATION SHARING

White House Official Calls on Industry and Agencies to Share More Cyber Threat Info
Jack Corrigan – Nextgov: 16 September 2018

Joshua Moses, director of cyber security performance and risk management at the U.S. Office of Management and Budget, called on the private sector to share more information with the government because federal agencies often lag behind in identifying the latest cyber threats.

For more on this theme:
(Russia) Now we'll know less: Russia is about to ban soldiers from posting about themselves on social media
(U.S.) Not Everyone Wants to Share Their Data in Exchange for Personalization
https://www.emarketer.com/content/not-everyone-wants-to-share-their-data-in-exchange-for-personalization
(Global) Marshall Center’s Cyber Team Engages Experts, Senior Leaders to shed Light on the Deep and Dark Web

CYBER PROTECTION OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Critical infrastructure will have to operate if there’s malware on it or not
Catalin Cimpanu – ZDNet: 16 September 2018

Maj. Gen. Robert Wheeler, a retired U.S. Air Force cyber security expert, believes that cyber attacks should not cause any downtime to critical infrastructure systems. Networks should be designed to operate while being attacked.
https://www.zdnet.com/article/critical-infrastructure-will-have-to-operate-if-theres-malware-on-it-or-not/

For more on this theme:
(U.S.) Voter registration database security gets mixed review
(U.S.) America’s Critical Infrastructure: Threats, Vulnerabilities and Solutions
(U.S., Global) Mitigating Threats to Undersea Internet Infrastructure
PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

ISIS

Bitcoin Use By Islamic State Could Be Over By October – Here’s Why
Billy Bambrouch – Forbes: 19 September 2018

With the rise in popularity of cryptocurrencies, terrorist groups such as ISIS use them to purchase hosting services and website domains and to download social media platforms to recruit, raise funds and organize attacks. But if the Financial Action Task Force can agree to a series of standards that address the anti-money-laundering gaps around the world, ISIS may no longer use the currency.


ISIS Is Poised to Make a Comeback in Syria
Hassan Hassan – The Atlantic: 18 September 2018

As President Bashar al-Assad looks to re-establish control over Syria, ISIS will seek to exploit the chaos and pick up the pieces, along with al-Qaeda.


For more on this theme:

In the ruins of the caliphate, ISIS rears its ugly head

ISIS continues killing, abducting Iraqis in guerrilla attacks
http://www.rudaw.net/english/middleeast/iraq/080920181

Islamic State Finds A Familiar Place To Regroup With Devastating Effects

How Islamic State armed group ran Raqqa
http://en.rfi.fr/20180919 How%20Islamic%20State%20armed%20group%20ran%20Raqqa

Nigerian military struggles against Islamic State in West Africa: sources

Iraqi Source Claims Islamic State’s Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi Died of Cancer

Concerned with growing presence of Islamic State in Afghanistan: President Ashraf Ghani

The Underground Caliphate
TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

US Official: Islamic State, Al-Qaida Determined and Adaptable
Cindy Saine – Voice of America: 19 September 2018

The U.S. State Department warned that terrorist groups such as al-Qaida and ISIS have adjusted their methods after major territorial gains made by U.S.-aligned forces in the Middle East. While overall attacks are down, the terrorist scene is more complex.


Full report:
Country Reports on Terrorism for 2017

Time for Peace Talks With ISIS and Al Qaeda?
Martha Crenshaw – Foreign Policy: 19 September 2018

Perhaps it’s time to give peace a chance. Moving into talks with the Taliban, the U.S. and its allies should consider whether the same option should be afforded to groups such as ISIS and al-Qaida.


For more on this theme:
Boko Haram’s Deadly Persistence (1 January 2011 – 31 August 2018)

Hezbollah is a state above the state
https://thearabweekly.com/hezbollah-state-above-state

Taliban ready to talk peace but what does it want?

Talking to the Taliban

Shabaab remains major security threat to Kenya

Spotlight on research: Donnelly examines women in rebel groups

Hamas forced to adapt as Arab solidarity fades

Can Hamas walk the fine line between deterrence and escalation?

For more on this theme:
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Shabaab remains major security threat to Kenya

Spotlight on research: Donnelly examines women in rebel groups

Hamas forced to adapt as Arab solidarity fades

Can Hamas walk the fine line between deterrence and escalation?
**RADICALIZATION AND MESSAGING**

**What we can learn from Isis about using the internet to counter terrorism**

*World Economic Forum: 19 September 2018*

The growth of ISIS would not have been possible without the internet and the reach of broadband connectivity, even in bombed-out cities and towns.


**Commission for Countering Extremism publishes plans for wide-ranging study into extremism**

*Government of the United Kingdom: 21 September 2018*

The British government’s Commission for Countering Extremism plans to conduct a wide-ranging study into all forms of extremism.


*For more on this theme:*

**The link between masculinity and violent extremism**

https://www.todayonline.com/commentary/link-between-masculinity-and-violent-extremism-0

**Caliphate – Chapter 2: Recruitment**


**Policy to counter radicalization launched in Isiolo**

http://www.kbc.co.ke/policy-to-counter-radicalization-launched-in-isilo/

**GOC hails role of de-radicalisation centre**

https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/371322-goc-hails-role-of-de-radicalisation-centre

**Radicalisation: New manifestation of terror in US**


**Washington Hails Morocco's Strategy to Combat Religious Extremism**


**Big Tech is overselling AI as the solution to online extremism**

https://theconversation.com/big-tech-is-overselling-ai-as-the-solution-to-online-extremism-102077

**The Fight Against Terrorism Online: Here's The Verdict**

FOREIGN FIGHTERS

Syrian Kurds say they cannot hold foreign jihadists indefinitely

Reuters: 20 September 2018

According to a senior Kurdish official, the Kurdish-led authorities in Syria will not be able to hold for much longer the 500 foreign fighters and 500 family members from 40 countries. He called on their home countries to take them back.


For more on this theme:

What Can Be Done About The Children Who Return From Islamic State?

COUNTERTERRORISM STRATEGIES

Combating ISIS in Afghanistan requires new tactics, on and off the battlefield

Shazar Shafqat - The Hill: 17 September 2018

The difference between combating the insurgent Taliban and the terror group ISIS in Afghanistan means new tactics are required. And terrorism requires countering the ideological aspect as well, a much longer-term prospect.


For more on this theme:

Indonesia adds anti-terror unit to fight Islamic State Muslim extremists in Central Sulawesi province

From Sweeping Punishment to Real Justice in Countering Terrorism
https://www.justsecurity.org/60795/sweeping-punishment-real-justice-countering-terrorism/

Managing the new threat landscape
https://www.brookings.edu/research/managing-the-new-threat-landscape/

Intelligence officers in Somalia agree to strengthen collaboration in the fight against Al-Shabaab