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COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

Saudi Arabia Strengthens Anti-Corruption Legislation
Lucy Papachristou – Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project: 27 September 2018
Saudi Arabia removed a 60-day statute of limitations for investigating allegations against current or former ministers as it looks to widen its controversial anti-corruption sweep.

Outrage at corruption, rights abuses tipped Maldives election
Zaheena Rasheed – Al Jazeera: 26 September 2018
Maldives voters sent a clear message that they would not re-elect a president facing allegations of corruption and human rights abuses. President Abdulla Yameen lost by a margin of nearly 17 percent.

For more on this theme:
Angolan President, One Year In, Praised for Anti-Corruption Push
https://www.voanews.com/a/angola-president-anti-corruption-push/4589717.html

Bestselling book claims corruption is Argentina’s ‘main structure of power’

Corruption ‘flourishes’
https://www.news24.com/SouthAfrica/Local/Peoples-Post/corruption-fourishes-20180926

Where Latvia’s Financial Corruption Scandal May Lead

As Foreign Firms Flee, Bulgaria Must Finally Curb Its Corruption Problem

Leading Jordanian royal blasts kingdom’s corruption problem

The fight against corruption and the work that remains
https://www.europeaninterest.eu/article/fight-corruption-work-remains/

Bosnia’s Criminal Code Changes: A Victory for Corruption
DRUG TRAFFICKING

European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction has a vital role in the UK’s ability to respond to illicit drugs and organised crime
Andres Roman-Urrestarazu, Roy Robertson, Justin Yang, Alison McCallum, Christina Gray, Martin McKee and John Middleton – British Medical Journal: 26 September 2018

The United Kingdom’s exclusion from the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction because of Brexit will have serious consequences for public health, experts warn. The U.K. relies on the agency to tackle the trade of illicit substances, especially involving organized crime.
https://www.bmj.com/content/362/bmj.k4003

West Africa’s Failed War on Drugs
Olusegun Obasanjo – Project Syndicate: 24 September 2018

West African drug laws need to focus less on penalizing addicts and more on maintaining access to essential medicines and services and reducing the harm caused by the illegal drug trade.
https://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/west-africa-failed-war-on-drugs-by-olusegun-obasanjo-2018-09

For more on this theme:

Venezuela Calls on Colombia to Take Action on Drug Trafficking

Trump to UN: “We commit to fighting the drug epidemic together”

The war on drugs is killing Kiwis – we must choose a different approach
https://thespinoff.co.nz/society/28-09-2018/the-war-on-drugs-is-killing-kiwis-we-must-choose-a-different-approach/

Fiji and the drug trade

‘Without drug traffickers, we’d have peace’: Colombian villagers flee new killings

Turkey tackles extensive synthetic drug troubles

The Drug Problem in the U.S. Is Not What We Think It Is

How to cut the online fentanyl trade? Postal reform is key

Fentanyl crisis: Is China a major source of illegal drugs?
TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

Environmental crimes on the rise as illegal funds pour into conflict zones

Reckless exploitation of the environment has taken over from drug trafficking as the top source of income for organized crime syndicates and armed groups, the international police agency Interpol reported.

Innovative solutions developed at Zoohackathon, New Delhi
TRAFFIC: 24 September 2018

Zoohackathon, a two-day, technology-based challenge to find solutions to wildlife trafficking, was held in New Delhi, India. Coders, wildlife enthusiasts and designers worked together to find solutions to the problems related to the illegal wildlife trade.

For more on this theme:
Incentivizing Whistleblowers Can Help Combat Trafficking of Rhino Horn

Middle East major hub for wildlife trafficking
https://www.natureasia.com/en/nmiddleeast/article/10.1038/nmiddleeast.2018.120

Rhino Horn and Tiger Wine: How the Illegal Wildlife Trade Is Growing Bolder

Illegal ivory dealers starting to use similar code words to hide online sales

Namibia ropes in German Shepherds to fight wildlife crimes

Agencies need to get organised to fight maritime crime

Beyond ivory – championing the neglected victims of illegal wildlife trade

Synthetic rhino horns are supposed to disrupt poaching. Will they work?
https://www.fastcompany.com/90239612/the-fight-over-using-synthetic-rhino-horns-to-stop-poaching

Why Beijing must export ‘ecological civilisation’
https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/world/china-watch/society/beijing-must-export-ecological-civilisation/

Keeping wildlife out of illegal trade
HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND IRREGULAR MIGRATION

The United Nations Wants Big Banks to Help Eliminate Human Trafficking
Leslie P. Norton – Barrons: 23 September 2018

The United Nations is calling on the financial services industry to play a larger role in fighting human trafficking and modern slavery by targeting money laundering and terrorist financing. To assist the anti-trafficking efforts, the industry needs to strengthen its understanding of the crime, improve its data gathering, and strengthen information-sharing.

https://www.barrons.com/articles/united-nations-general-assembly-slavery-1537747242

Qatar’s 2022 World Cup Is Already A Human Trafficking Nightmare
Nicole Fisher – The Federalist: 21 September 2018

According to several reports, at least 1,200 foreign workers died in Qatar between 2010 and 2017 while working on the 2022 World Cup facilities. One report estimates fatalities will top 4,000 by the time the facilities open. Many of the workers live in labor camps and are believed to be the victims of human trafficking and modern slavery.


For more on this theme:

Interpol holds human trafficking and migrant smuggling conference in Nigeria

Morocco probes use of speedboats by people smugglers

Tunisia’s Kerkennah Islands: A land for smuggling

Back to Frontex: Europe’s misguided migration policy
https://www.ecfr.eu/article/commentary_back_to_frontex_europes_misguided_migration_policy

Special investigation: Exposing the human trafficking industry selling Nepalese women into domestic slavery in Kuwait

Airports Equal Big Business for Human Traffickers: What One Group Is Doing to Stop It

Cyber human trafficking growing in the U.S.

This Small Batch Ice Cream Company Wants To Help Stop Human Trafficking
PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

INTERNET GOVERNANCE

Government Considers Creating A Regulator For The Internet
Matthew Broersma – Silicon: 21 September 2018
The United Kingdom is considering establishing a new regulator for internet governance.
https://www.silicon.co.uk/workspace/government-considers-creating-a-regulator-for-the-internet-237181?inf_by=5badc7a2671db6a12a8b4c16

For more on this theme:
(Global) Censorship could be just as common in an open internet as a closed one

(Global) Thin Heads and Fat Tails: Understanding the Crypto Reinvention of Capitalism
http://knowledge.wharton.upenn.edu/article/web-3-o-welcome-new-sober-internet/

(U.S.) Inside the Harvard research hub chronicling our relationship with the internet
https://www.siliconrepublic.com/enterprise/harvard-berkman-klein-internet

INTERNET FREEDOM

Big Brother Is Creating Two Chinas
Adam Minter – Bloomberg: 25 September 2018
The difference between the haves and the have-nots is growing inside China as the poor and rural Chinese are relegated to heavily censored information and the urban and affluent Chinese are able to circumvent censorship through technology and travel.

For more on this theme:
(China, Global) Why Would Google’s Ex-CEO Predict a Separate Chinese Internet?

(China) Google’s censored search engine for China is sparking a moral crisis within the company

(Zambia) Zambia’s social media tax isn’t really about social media or freedom of speech
PRIVACY AND SECURITY

Who controls your data? India may pass a law ensuring that you do.
Vasant Dhar – The Washington Post: 25 September 2018

India has declared privacy a fundamental right. As such, Parliament is set to discuss the introduction of a “data fiduciary” to ensure that data is used for its designated purposes only. This would allow Indian citizens to have control over how their personal data is shared.


For more on this theme:
(U.S.) Government crackdown on data privacy will leave some big company winners and losers in its wake

(U.S.) California passes nation’s first IoT security bill – too little too late?

(U.S.) Can Privacy Survive the Digital Age?

CYBER STATECRAFT DEVELOPMENT

Tech Firms Are Boosting China’s Cyber Power
Sarah Cook – The Diplomat: 25 September 2018

Corporations that chose to work in China can reap many benefits, but the regime’s declaration that foreign companies must turn over sensitive technology information is a huge negative for the corporations – and for human rights and freedom.


For more on this theme:
(ASEAN) Asean countries to establish framework for cybersecurity collaboration
https://www.zdnet.com/article/asean-countries-to-establish-framework-for-cybersecurity-collaboration/

(U.S.) DoD releases first new cyber strategy in three years

(U.K.) Britain steps up cyber offensive with new £250m unit to take on Russia and terrorists
PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

Government and the Private Sector Share Responsibility for Secure Infrastructure
Adam Isles – Security InfoWatch: 20 September 2018

It will take both the government and the private sector to secure critical infrastructure. It is up to the private sector, however, to take a more active role in defining how the government can support and defend their interests.

https://www.securityinfowatch.com/article/12427475/government-and-the-private-sector-share-responsibility-for-secure-infrastructure#_ftnref1

For more on this theme:

(U.S., Global) Getting your business ready for smart city partnership

(U.S.) National Cyber Strategy Aims to Deter through Strength; Collaborate with Private Sector to Secure Cyberspace

PROTECTION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Is China Still Stealing Western Intellectual Property?
Adam Segal – Council on Foreign Relations: 26 September 2018

Three years after the signing of the U.S.-China cyber pact that targeted the cyber theft of intellectual property, researchers at the Australian Strategic Policy Institute say there is still cause for concern. Although the number of attacks declined, there is evidence that Chinese attackers have re-emerged in violation of both the letter and spirit of the agreement. The researchers noted that a decline in the number of incidents may signal that the attackers are becoming more efficient.

https://www.cfr.org/blog/china-still-stealing-western-intellectual-property

Full report:
Hacking for ca$h

For more on this theme:

(China, U.S.) US Needs More Tools to Counter China on IP Transfers, Congress Told

(U.K.) UK plans to build cyber warfare unit to combat online threat posed by Russia, North Korea and Iran
CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING

This new program is recruiting Israeli girls for cyber warfare and high-tech futures
Larry Luxner – Jewish Telegraphic Agency: 26 September 2018

CyberGirlz, a program that aims to cultivate interest and skills in technology among high school girls, is helping to close the gap between women and men in the cyber field. With the huge shortage of skilled cyber professionals, encouraging women to enter the cyber security field is critical.


For more on this theme:

(Global) Cyber talent crunch a big threat

(Global) Exclusive: The white hat hackers making sure your internet stays safe

(Estonia) Estonia ranks first in the world in the national cyber security index

COMBATING TERRORISM AND CYBER CRIME

We are the champions: fighting cyber crime needs security champions
Michael Baxter – Information Age: 26 September 2018

Skilled communicators are just as critical as technology in the fight against cyber crime.

https://www.information-age.com/fighting-cyber-crime-123475052/

For more on this theme:

(U.K.) Scientists move away from the keyboard to beat cyber attackers at their own game

(Global) The Age Of Cyber War – OpEd
https://www.eurasiareview.com/24092018-the-age-of-cyber-war-oped/

(Serbia) Serbia Tightens Cyber-Security As Internet Crime Rises
INFORMATION SHARING

Electronic Tools Can Strengthen Health Care Data Access, Sharing
PEW: 19 September 2018

Application programming interfaces (APIs) enable easy access to data through algorithms so that information can be shared and used in creative ways. Widespread adoption of APIs in electronic health records could revolutionize how information is shared and free patients from hand-delivering their records to providers.


For more on this theme:

(Australia) Former policymakers part of new partnership to bolster nation’s cyber security

(U.S.) The Cybersecurity 202: Congress poised to allow DHS to take the lead on federal cybersecurity

(Philippines) DICT taps foreign partners to enhance cybersecurity
https://businessmirror.com.ph/dict-taps-foreign-partners-to-enhance-cybersecurity/

CYBER PROTECTION OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Mattis predicts DoD will one day offer cyber protection to private sector
Justin Lynch – Fifth Domain: 27 September 2018

U.S. Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis believes that the government will eventually offer cyber protection to businesses that work with critical infrastructure and possibly offer it to small businesses, too.


For more on this theme:

(U.S.) Protecting the Power Grid from Cyber Attacks

(Global) The modern city: the key to securing critical infrastructure

(U.K.) The UK is an easy target for cyber-attackers — we must reboot our defences
https://www.standard.co.uk/comment/comment/the-uk-is-an-easy-target-for-cyberattackers-we-must-reboot-our-defences-a3947346.html
PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

ISIS

**Islamic State says Iran attack will not be the last: al Furqan**

Ali Abdelaty and Nadine Awadalla – Reuters: 26 September 2018

The Islamic State jihadist group is threatening to carry out new attacks in Iran, days after it claimed a deadly shooting at a military parade in the country’s southwest. The attack against the Revolutionary Guards killed 24 people.


**Islamic State: The Torment of Afghanistan’s Shiites**

Ezzatullah Mehrdad – The Diplomat: 25 September 2018

ISIS has repeatedly attacked Shiite interests in Afghanistan. “Daesh [the Islamic State], an extremist group, was formed mainly based on anti-Shiite agendas for taking over Shiite governments in Syria and Iraq,” military analyst Javed Kohistani told The Diplomat online magazine. He notes that Iran mobilized Shiite militias to fight ISIS in Syria.


*For more on this theme:*

**Going Global: The Islamic State’s worldwide reach**


**Newspaper: Islamic State chief Baghdadi moved to Afghanistan via Iran**


**While nobody was looking, the Islamic State launched a new, deadly offensive**

https://menafn.com/1097475912/While-nobody-was-looking-the-Islamic-State-launched-a-new-deadly-offensive

**Clashes Between Islamic State and AQAP Emblematic of Broader Competition**


**Editorial: Wrong About ISIS**

https://www.weeklystandard.com/the-editors/trump-says-isis-is-defeated-hes-wrong

**ISIS Isn’t Dead Yet. A Hapless Plot to Bomb Times Square Reveals the Next Phase of the Islamic State.**


**Why Anjem Choudary’s release from prison won't necessarily reboot al-Muhajiroun**


**Controversy Over an ISIS Archive**

TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

Why Do We Underestimate The Role Of Women In Terrorist Organizations?
Nikita Malik – Forbes: 26 September 2018

By referring to the women and girls who joined ISIS as “jihadi brides,” the British media did a disservice to how women in terrorist organizations are viewed. The world constantly underestimates the role women play in these groups.


Boko Haram Leader Shekau’s Book Helps Explain Factional Riots
Jacob Zenn – Council on Foreign Relations: 25 September 2018

Both the leader of Boko Haram and the leader of its offshoot, the Islamic State in West Africa, recently released books outlining their perspectives on the split and how the groups view each other.


For more on this theme:

South and Southeast Asia not immune to the spread of terrorism

Jihadists, but no terror attacks: The case of Italy

Al Shabaab youths get state amnesty

Horn of Africa Still at Risk From Violent Extremism

5 years after mall Kenya attack, al-Shabab’s threat grows
https://www.apnews.com/0e3d37425a9e4bbca43a470bfa655a90

Bahrain’s Hezbollah and The Iranian Failure

Intel: Congress wants to cut off Hezbollah’s finances – here’s why it’s taking a while

Afghan Leader Sees No Change Toward Taliban From Pakistan

Taliban meets Afghan officials in Saudi Arabia ahead of election: sources
RADICALIZATION AND MESSAGING

Europe’s Prisons, Already Hotbeds of Radicalization, Are Filling Up With ISIS Recruits
Cara Tabachnick – World Politics Review: 25 September 2018

Fearful of attacks by returning jihadists, many European nations have opted to put them in prison. These already overcrowded prisons have become an epicenter for the spread of terrorist ideology. It is unclear what effect the foreign fighters will have on current prison populations.


One expert’s plan to stop radicalization in France: Start teaching Arabic in schools
Annabelle Timsit – Quartz: 25 September 2018

To reduce Islamic radicalization in France, one former official suggests the teaching of Arabic in public schools to prevent young Muslims from learning it in mosques, where it will be tied with religious studies and possibly spark radicalization.


For more on this theme:

We can use madrasa to counter terrorism
https://www.nation.co.ke/oped/opinion/We-can-use-madrasa-to-counter-terrorism/440808-4765878-pbg5ig/index.html

Marawi rebuilding delays could drive recruitment of more ‘enemies of the state’

Kyrgyzstan’s Crackdown on Extremist Material: Further Reforms Needed

The Man Who Trained With Tony Robbins, on Child Radicalization
https://clarionproject.org/the-man-who-taught-tony-robbins-on-child-radicalization/

How Communities Should Deal With Radicalization
https://clarionproject.org/how-communities-should-deal-with-radicalization/

Radicalization threat runs risk of undermining #Balkans links with West

Canadians share their views on countering radicalization to violence

Three-day Conference On Radicalization, Challenges Of Campus Life Commences At Air University
FOREIGN FIGHTERS

‘Isis Tomorrow’ ponders what will happen to children raised amid terror
Kaleem Aftab – The National: 22 September 2018

A new documentary on the lost children of ISIS, titled Isis, Tomorrow, considers what the future holds for the children who grew up during the war. The filmmakers argue that the world must take care of these children or run the risk of raising the next generation of the ISIS ideology.

https://www.thenational.ae/arts-culture/film/isis-tomorrow-ponders-what-will-happen-to-children-raised-amid-terror-1.772850

For more on this theme:

Kurds Seek Solutions for Captured IS Fighters
https://www.voanews.com/a/kurds-seek-solutions-for-captured-is-fighters-/4589257.html

Foreign Isis fighters must face trial on home soil, Kurds say

Uncertain Future for Released Terrorists and Returnees
https://www.thecipherbrief.com/column_article/uncertain-future-for-released-terrorists-and-returnees

COUNTERTERRORISM STRATEGIES

Israel’s approach to counterterrorism
Isaac Kfir – Australian Strategic Policy Institute: 27 September 2018

Israel has a unique approach to counterterrorism. It does not have an official counterterrorism doctrine but instead focuses on creating divisions within groups and between groups and their supporters through coercion and/or persuasion.


For more on this theme:

Stop Fighting a War Against a Tactic
http://smallwarsjournal.com/jrnl/art/stop-fighting-war-against-tactic

Reappraising Nigeria’s Counter-terrorism Efforts

Over 40 countries to attend OSCE counter-terrorism conference in Minsk

The Impact of Brexit on Counterterrorism Cooperation
https://www.thecipherbrief.com/column_article/impact-of-brexit-on-counterterrorism-cooperation

U.S. report looks at counterterrorism across Africa
DEALING WITH DISASTERS

As sand mining grows, Asia’s deltas are sinking, water experts warn
Manipadma Jena – Thompson Reuters Foundation: 21 September 2018

Sand mining in Asia is causing deltas to erode, facilitating more flooding and land loss. This is of particular importance because the coastal deltas are home to millions of people and a significant source of the region’s food.

http://news.trust.org/item/20180921152851-qv2d6/

Include disaster management in school syllabus: NDRF Director General
Sanjay Kumar
The New Indian Express: 27 September 2018

The Indian Education Department is planning to introduce disaster management principles into the school curriculum in the aftermath of the recent flood havoc.


For more on this theme:

Military advancement needed for disaster preparedness, protection of borders – Lorenzana

Disaster relief is about more than healing physical trauma. It's about emotional recovery too.
https://mashable.com/article/psychosocial-disaster-relief-natural-disasters-unicef/#jmb3UmLnGZqk

Rethinking disaster management
https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-opinion/rethinking-disaster-management/article25032845.ece

How do natural hazards cascade to cause disasters?
https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-018-06783-6

Rising Seas, Shrinking Lakes, Extreme Weather Events Show How Large Threat of Climate Change Looms, Deputy Secretary-General Tells Group of Friends

A new way of solving the disaster problem
https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1765883